AMMAN-PARIS

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King visits JIB in London

LONDON (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein, who is on a private visit to the United Kingdom, Saturday visited the Jordanian Information Bureau in London and met with its staff. Bureau head Nasser Judeh briefed the King on the office's activities which were mitiated in 1992. He said that the bureau had started contacts with Jordanian students in Britain to provide them with cultural economic and political publications about Jordan. The bureau is entrusted with presenting the Jordanian views to the British press.

Syria slams Arafat for missing deadline

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria Saturday sharply criticised Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat for missing a deadline for an agreement on the details of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. "Israel is hypocritically playing for time and knows that Arafat will lay down his cards one after the other to achieve any gain to hold up to the Palesti-nian and Arab opposition," the official Al Thawra daily said. "Israel knew the PLÓ leader could no longer stop (his initiative) since surrender is a bottomless pit," the paper said. "So the game of blackmail began just when Arafat seemed defenceless." Mr. Arafat, it argued, was desperately trying to salvage the Israeli-Palestinian accord on limited autonomy for Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho signed Sept. 13 in Washington, adding that his concessions would completely water down the deal. "All the agreement's clauses will then be interpreted according to Israeli logic and not be subject to discussion," it

Hoist suffered a minor stroke

OSLO (AP) - Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who secretly brokered a secret Middle East peace agreement, has suffered a minor stroke, his doctors said Saturday. Mr. Hoist was hospitalised for the second time in three weeks late Thursday after he became acutely ill aboard a government jet that was bringing him home from meetings in Spain. "He has been fully conscious the whole time and his intellectual functions have not been affected," said a brief statement signed by his doctor, Rolf Nyberg-Hansen, of the National Hospital in Oslo.

Libyan rebels sure dissident kidnapped

CAIRO (AFP) - The Libyan opposition in Egypt said Saturday it was "convinced" that one of its leaders. Mansour Kikhia, who went missing in Cairo last Saturday, had been kidnapped by agents of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Mohammad Jibril, Cairo spokesman for the opposition Libyan National Salvation Front, told AFP that on Thursday the front managed to contact Mr. Kikhia's brother Mahmoud, who lives in Benghazi, in northeastern Libya. Mahmoud Kikhia said a Libyan official had assured (Mansour) Kikhia's relatives that Mansour was in Li bya. but did not say whether Mansour's family had managed to meet him, or whether the Libyan dissident went to Libya willingly," Mr. Jibril said. "The Libyan opposition is convinced Mansour Kikhia was kidnapped by agents" of Colonel Qadhafi, Mr. Jibril said. (See page 2)

Assad meets Sedki

DAMASCUS (AP) - President Hafez Al Assad met Saturday with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki for talks on the latest developments in the Middle East and in bilateral relations. The official Syrian Arab News Agency said Dr. Sedki briefed Mr. Assad on the meetings of the supreme joint Syrian-Egyptian committee and efforts to boost cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Israel, PLO meet in

Oslo in bid to end self-rule deadlock

ISRAELI and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials were set to begin key talks in Oslo late Saturday in a bid to break the deadlock over implementation of the Palestinian autonomy plan, a senior Israeli government official

The official said the sixmember Israeli team would include Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Israel's chief negotiator at the autonomy talks in Egypt, General Amnon Shahak.

The delegation would try to overcome the differences which arose recently," the official said, but he stressed that Israel would "not make any concessions on security mat-

Asked whether Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo next week the official said "everything de-pends on the results of the contacts over the next few

days."
The two leaders failed to agree on key aspects of implementing Palestinian autonomy at talks in Cairo last Sunday, but said they hoped to meet again in about 10 days'

Israel and the PLO began direct talks on Oct. 13 in Egypt to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho by Dec. 13, but failed to meet the deadline set out in the accord signed in Washington in September.

Saturday that Mr. Rabin's political adviser Jacques Neria had gone abroad" to hold talks with PLO officials, but gave no Infighting hits Russian reformers;

sian democrats. humbled by

their debacle in last week's

parliamentary elections, are

engaging in mudslinging and

finger-pointing over who is to blame for their poor perform-

The gloves came off in the

pro-reform camp after election

results showed that ultrana-

tionalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky

and his Liberal Democratic

Party (LDP) ranked first in

nationwide voting from party

lists, beating the pro-govern-

The overall result, which in-

cluded voting in constituen-

cies, gave Russia's Choice the

largest number of seats in the

legislature but the bitterness

was apparent among party

leaders who confidently ex-

pected to form the majority in

Leading reformers who rare-

y succumb to smear campaigns

uddenly were at each other's

throats and President Boris

Yeltsin was expected to step in

this week to end the infighting

with a major government

Foreign Minister Andrei

Kozvrev. a candidate on the

pro-government Russia's

Choice ticket, took a punch at

leader Yegor Gaidar this week

in an interview to the newspap-

er Sevodnya, stating that the

voung economist had failed to

explain in layman's terms the

issues at stake in the campaign.

know what he wants out of

reforms but he did not explain

it to the average voter, in easy

terms, by appearing for an hour on television, like Zhir-

inovsky did," Mr. Kozyrev

resorting to simple language.

not with paradigms or talk of

inflationary expectations." he

Mr. Kozvrev said that the

campagin strategy was all

wrong citing a television

"It could have been done by

"My friend Gaidar might w

ment Russia's Choice.

parliament.

ance in the historic poli.

vhile said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and foreign ministry director-general Uri Savir would join the talks in Oslo on Monday. They would focus on the future Palestinian police force to be deployed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the

radio added. Earlier, a PLO official in Tunis said the PLO would offer to drop its demand for sole control of crossing points, at the meeting with Israel in

Norway Chief negotiator Nabil Shaath and other PLO officials will instead propose that an equal number of Israeli forces and Palestinian police man posts between the self-rule areas and Egypt and Jordan, the official said.
The official, a member of

the PLO Executive Committee who asked not to be named, said the delegation would also offer some compromises in other areas which he did not The PLO delegation arrived

in Cairo Friday after receiving its instructions from Tunis, and then left the Egyptian capital for Oslo on Saturday. Sources in Cairo said the PLO team travelling to Nor-

way included Yasser Abed

Rabbo, the organisation's information department head. "We want to prevent the next Arafat-Rabin summit failing as was the case for the last one in Cairo," Mr. Abed Rabbo told Reuters before heading

for Oslo. The PLO was willing to com-Israeli security demands, he

He said the PLO was ready to share control of borders with international forces which

Gore, Kohl rally behind Yeltsin

Choice that featured a fat Saint

Bernard as an example of the

party's lack of tact towards a

more meat than my consti-

tuents did in Murmansk," he

charged, speaking of the far

Prime Minister Viktor Cher-

nomyrdin ruled out further

economic shock therapy for

Russia following the setback

for reformers in the elections.

interview with the Trud news-

paper, blamed the reformers'

poor showing on the ambitions

of government ministers who

formed rival parties rather

than unite behind President

an individual (or) joined va-

rious political blocs." he said.

They confused the people.

The reformist government

will now probably have to

make substantial concessions

in order to pull together a

coalition, the anti-reform

LDP, communists and their

Agrarian Party allies boasting

some 40 per cent of seats in

A leading centrist warned

they Mr. Zhirinovsky will be

Russian president within two

vears unless the government

softens its economic reforms.

kin is being taken seriously by

adoptedd on Dec. 12 in a

simultaneous vote for the new

legislature, includes few safe-

guards against the abuse of

sweeping presidential powers

Leading reformers including

Mr. Gaidar. Yuri Cher-

nichenko of Russia's Choice

and Lev Ponomarev, co-head

of the movement for a Demo-

contained in the basic law.

the Russian media.

The warning by Nikola Trav-

Russia's new constitution,

misled them and that certainly

had an effect on the results.

"Everyone of them stood as

Mr. Chernomyrdin, in an

a newspaper reported.

Yeltsin.

he said.

parliament.

north city he represents.

"That dog looked like it ate

poverty-stricken electorate.

MOSCOW (Agencies) - Rus- advertisement for Russia's

not smuggle heavy arms into the occupied territories. Electronic surveillance of

border points by Israeli authorities would allow them to monitor the identity of those passing through, Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Israel says the two sides agreed at the outset that it would have responsibility for external security. The PLO says the declaration of princi-ples leaves the control of the borders to be negotiated. What is the meaning of

Israeli control of the passages when these are for access to Palestinian zones from which the Israelis have withdrawn,' Mr. Najab said. On Jericho, the PLO says

the area should be about 300 square kilometres. Israel puts the area at 27 square

The PLO says Israeli security patrols in Gaza should be confined to the settlements. Israel, PLO officials say, wants control of about 10 per cent of the strip to do the job.
In the Norwegian capital,

foreign ministry spokesman Jan Egeland said that U.S., Russian, Egyptian and European officials would join in the talks on Monday at an Oslo

Talks snagged on the control of crossing points between the autonomous areas and neighbouring Egypt and Jordan, as well as on the size of the Jericho district and an Israeli troop presence around Jewish

ded sole control over the borders. Mr. Peres said in Paris Thursday that Israel must re-

(Continued on page 3)

cratic Russia, launched a bitter

personal attack on Mr. Zhir-

inovsky, saying his party's

strong performance showed

fascism had become a politica-

have a century ago has re-

turned to Russia. All the

promises of Vladimir Zhir-

inovsky are lies and can .only

lead to war," they warned in a

Although Mr. Zhirinovsky

cannot yet impose his views, he

received massive support from

The United States and Germany pledged Saturday to

cooperate closely in supporting

Mr. Yeltsin's democratic re-

German Chancellor Heimut

Kohl and U.S. Vice-President

talks at Mr. Kohl's residence in

Oggersheim that they had dis-

cussed ways of strengthening

support for democratic and

economic reforms in Russia.

"As we approach the NATO summit and President Clin-

ton's meeting only days later

with Yeltsin in Moscow, the

need for this close cooperation

is obvious," Mr. Gore told

Members of the North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation

(NATO) are meeting on Jan.

10 to discuss European security

after the end of the cold war.

and may also address the wish

of some Eastern European

countries to join the alliance.

bungalow home in a middle-

on the Rhine touched on ways

of supporting economic change

through the International

"Reforms will have no

chance unless a social situation

is created that offers citizens a

hopeful perspective for the fu-

ture so that people do not

connect democracy with social

failure and economic loss." he

Monetary Fund (IMF).

class suburb of Ludwigshafen

Mr. Kohl said the talks at his

reporters.

Al Gore said after two hours of

Facism, beated by Russia

reality in Russia.

joint statement.

within the army.



A young Palestinian kicks a burning tyre during a protest in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on Saturday against the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement (AFP photo)

Israeli soldiers clash with Ramallah protesters

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli sol-diers wounded four Palestinians in clashes in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah on Saturday, Arab sources

The army sealed off the town during the clashes by setting up checkpoints on major roads, eyewitnesses said. An army spokesman said it was declared a closed military area because people were throwing stones and burning

Reuter photographer Khaled Zighari was lightly wounded in the leg by a rubber bullet when soldiers dispersed a group of Palestinians throwing stones at paramilitary border policemen.

"I was in the centre of the city," he said. "Young Palestinians began to throw stones at the soldiers. The soldiers were ready to shoot. The first shot

Local residents said three other Palestinians were slightly wounded when troops fired rubber bullets and percussion grenades at 30 to 40 stonethrowing youths.

The youths, demonstrating against the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace deal with Israel, burned tyres and blocked off a main

road in the town. Under the deal signed by Israel and the PLO in September, Israeli forces should have started withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13. But disputes between the

two sides have led to a delay in implementing the accord. Reuter photographer David Silverman said he saw soldiers

checking cars entering Ramai lah from Jerusalem and a helicopter circling over the town. In the West Bank town of Nablus on Saturday, about 120 Palestinians demonstrated against the PLO and its deal

with Israel. Leading the protest was an eight-year-old boy holding a submachinegun, witnesses and Jewish settlers have stepped up attacks in an attempt to wreck the deal.

Since news of the deal emerged in September, 44 Palestinians and 18 Israelis have been killed.

Militant Palestinian groups

Israel will for the time being not take the PLO and its mainstream Fateh movement off the "terrorist" organisations list, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday.
"We must first do some

checking, to the extent where certain problems seem linked to certain marginal elements of Fateh, before we proceed with changes," he said on Israel television.

Mr. Rabin has for over a month refused to approve a bill requiring that the PLO, Fatch and the Palestine Liberation Army be removed: from the list of organisations considered "terrorist" under Israeli

law, the television said. Parliament must vote on the bill before it becomes law. The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the pro-

Iranian Lebanese Shiite movement Hizbollah are the two latest organisations to have been included on the list in PLO Chairman Yasser Ara-

fat announced an end to the armed struggle against Israel following the signing of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

But Israeli Television said the Fatch Hawks, the movement's armed wing, had killed an Israelil settler on Oct. 30 near the West Bank town of Ramallah. The killing was conde-

mned by Arafat. The Israeli army has meanwhile removed the names of 36 activists of the Fateh and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) movements from the list of wanted Palestinians, military sources said Friday.

The activities include six members of the Red Eagles group, the PFLP's armed wing.

which opposes the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal, they said.

Fateh-PFLP clashes

Six Palestinians were wounded in clashes here on Saturday between militants from Fateh faction and the PFLP, Palestinian sources

The clashes arose from a private dispute over possession of a football pitch in the Sheikh Radwan district, the sources said, and were not linked to the PFLP's opposition to the PLO-Israel accord on limited autonomy for the Palestinians.

The militants exchanged blows and threw stones at each other before leaders of Fateh and the PFLP managed to separate them.

Earlier in Jerusalem a commander of an Israeli undercover unit said the army had stepped up the activities of its undercover units, responsible for tracking down wanted Palestinians, due to a rise in anti-Israeli attacks.

Speaking on Israeli Radio, the commander, whose name was not given, said: "We have a bigger presence on the ground and our activities have been bolstered, due to the growth in the activities of (extremists) who claim success in

killing settlers." "They are using increasingly sophisticated methods, and we are adapting to them, because our work against wanted

armed Palestinians continues. He said there was no question of dismantling the special units, whose members are usually disguised as Palestinans, despite the Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

Several Israeli and Palesti~ nian human rights organisations have slammed the special units' actions, accusing them of liquidating Palestinians. The colonel insisted his unit

was "not a unit of killers, inasmuch as it follows the same orders on when to open fire as those in effect in the army as a

Nabulsi: Reopening of banks unrelated to accord with PLO

AMMAN (J.T.) — The reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the Israelioccupied West Bank is not contingent on the signing of an economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Mohammad Said Nabulsi said Saturday.

Dr. Nabulsi said he was surprised by news reports on the subject. "The reopening of the Jordanian banks in the occupied territories that were closed in 1967 has been (under consideration) since 1968," he

On Friday, Agence France Presse quoted a Jordanian official as saying: "We can no longer wait and if the PLO has not replied by Dec. 20, we will interpret this silence as an answer and will go ahead and open our banks.

Dr. Nabulsi said that there had been many attempts to reopen the banks in the past, but they were unsuccessful except for the Cairo-Amman Bank that resumed operation in 1986 through a special

agreement. He said that since the peace talks had started the time was suitable for reopening those branches within the framework of peace. The matter has been discussed and the banks will reopen under new regulation, the CBJ governor said.

Dr. Nabulsi pointed out that eight banks with 31 branches operated in the West Bank until 1967.

He said that Jordan and Israel had reached a memorandum of understanding within the framework of the peace talks by which the CBJ would oversee the work of these branches and their licensing. He added that the Palesti-

nian side is aware of the agreement with the Israeli side. Dr. Nabulsi said he asked Jordanian banks to be ready for the go ahead once the

Cabinet approved the CBJ arrangements.

Jordan-PLO accord

Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nouwar told Parliament Wednesday that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was expected to refer the draft economic accord document to the PLO Executive Committee for study as soon as he ended a visit to Britain and Ireland. Dr. Abu Nouwar rejected

deputies' suggestions that the draft agreement had "failed" and said he was personally assured by Mr. Arafat that it would be followed up.

Mr. Arafat returned to his Tunis headquarters Thursday from Ireland and chaired several meetings of the PLO leadership.

Algerian presidency may get extension

ALGIERS ((Agencies) — The mandate of algeria's ruling high State Council could be extended by a month until the end of January, Radha Malek, prime minister and member of the presidential council said Saturdav.

The extension of the mandate was requested by the National Dialogue Commission, formed to seek a solution to the country's political crisis which has pitted the militaryhacked government against Islamic fundamentalists, to allow time for a conference on the transition.

The council's mandate was due to expire on Dec. 31. The five-membere council has ruled Algeria since January 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election in which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a huge first-round lead.

Mr. Malek told foreign journalists that the dialogue commission, which is holding talks on leadiong Algeria to democracy, had asked for a onemonth extension for its work. Because the commission was

responsible to the ruling council this would involve extending its mandate as well. Mr. Malek said. "The two are linked," he said. On Thursday night Mr.

Malek said in a television interview sthat the council would step down at the end of the year, as planned. The five-man presidency

hass been trying to prepare a political conference to organise a gradual transition to a multiparty democracy and free-market economy. Algeria has been under emergency rule for almost two years. But so far the council has

the FIS, which wants to establish an Islamic state and says it won more than 80 per cent support in the first round of votiong in 1992.

On Friday police rounded up dozens of men after prayers at two fundamentalist mosques in Algiers after the banned FIS set conditions for talks with the government.

The authorities replied to the offer with several conditions of their own which appeared to exclude the front but left the door open to others.

Since the cancellation of the 1992 poll, at least 1,800 militants, civilins and security personnel have been killed in political violence, including 23 foreigners targeted by the mili-tants since September. The prime minister said a decision on whether to extend the counfought shy of giving any role to cil's mandate had not yet been

taken, saying this was up to the six-member High Security Council.

But he said the security hody, which includes Mr. Malek, the army chief-of-staff and the defence, interior, justice and foreign ministers, was likely to view the request favourably.

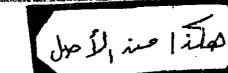
The Islamic Salvation Front Friday set conditions for talks with the government on two years of political unrest.

The authorities replied to the offer with several conditions of their own which appeared to exclude the FISbut left the door open to others.

An exiled FIS leader, Rabah Kebir said in Bonn on Friday the front had five conditions for talks, beginning with the freeing of what he termed polltical prisoners.

(Continued on page 5)

ملدًا صنه الأحل



ty of South Yemen before uni-

fication. It ostensibly governs

the united Yemen in coalition

with Mr. Saleh's northern

General Peoples' Congress

(GPC) and the smaller Islah

But Vice-President Beedh

abandoned the capital for

Aden over three months ago and refused to carry out his constitutional duties after quarrelling with Mr. Saleh

over unification, which he has

likened to annexation of the

The political crisis has para-

lysed the government, sparked

reports of political killings, illi-

cit armed roadblocks and troop

movements and led to fears

that Yemen's two halves might

north and south is due to in-

terference in the country's inter-

nal security situation by diffe-rent military groups," the YSP statement said.

It repeated a demand, one of

18 made of Mr. Saleh by Mr.

Beedh, that all troops be with-

drawn from Yemen's cities. The armies of former North

and South Yemen, which

watched each other suspicious-

ly over the border before uni-

fication, have not yet been

fully integrated.

Both Mr. Saleh and Mr.
Beedh have said they do not want to see Yemen split, and Mr. Beedh has suggested that the best way to end the crisis

was for both men to resign.

opposition parties called on the

three ruling parties to resume

A coalition of Yemen's

"Part of the crisis between

south by the north.

Military holds up Attas' motorcade

police in three jeeps briefly stopped Yemeni Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas from entering the capital Sanaa Friday, the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) said.

The motorcade of Mr. Attas, who is one of the YSP's leaders, was held up for about half an hour, the party polit-buro (leadership) said in a statement released in Aden.

The incident came amid months of paralysing political feuding between Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh. who is head of YSP, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh over the direction Yemen has taken since north and south merged

The prime minister was allowed to drive into Sanaa after he used his car phone to call several political leaders in the capital, the statement said. It added that the jeeps followed the motorcade into the

city centre. Mr. Attas was coming from Aden, the southern port city where the formerly Marxist YSP has its base. It was not clear why he was stopped or who ordered the military police to let him proceed.

The YSP said the military police who stopped Mr. Attas were under the command of Colonel Mohammad Yahya Al Hawari, who is from the same northern tribe and village as President Saleh.

"Such incidents are designed to escalate the existing crisis," the statement said, adding that the YSP demanded an immedi-

Palestinian attitude to peace deal is volatile

By John West Reuter

NABLUS, occupied West Bank — The level of Palestinian public support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal with Israel could bounce back from current lows if Israel starts to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, the head of a polling organisation said.

But four days after a troop pullout from the two areas was to have started. PLO leaders have begun preparing for the worst by forecasting more trouble in negotiations and hinting at a further delay in implementing self-rule.

A poll released on Thursday of more than a thousand

Palestinian showed support for the PLO's agreement with Israel dropped sharply to 41.5 per cent from 64.9 per cent in September. Opposition to the deal was now almost equal at 38.1 per cent.

Underlying support for Palestinian political factions backing the accord also dropped but they still have more support then factions opposing it, said the poll by the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies (CPRS).

"There is bout 20 or 25 per cent of the electorate which is the floating vote," CPRS head Said Kanaan told Reuters. "Even many Fateh supporters now say they do not back the agreement but this could change tomorrow if there was The results suggested the de-lay in withdrawal had dented but not yet permanently damaged support for PLO Chairman Arafat and his Fatch fac-

An Israeli poll on Friday suggested Mr. Arafat's peace partner Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was also suffering a drop in popularity, although a majority of 54 per cent of Israelis believed he could still agree with Mr. Arafat on with-

PLO officials, like their Israeli counterparts, are now preparing public opinion for further delays and deadlock. which could erode Palestinian support to critical levels.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath joined the ranks of pessimists on Friday, saying Israel's insistence on controlling border posts could hold up talks.

"Israel's insistence on this point is a real threat to the declaration of principles... we are waiting to reach a formula which protects our rights so that we can return to the negotiating table," he told Al Quds

newspaper.
On Thursday PLO official
Yasser Abed-Rabbo said the agreement could be frozen if Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin failed to agree on terms for Israel's withdrawal next week, the first step of the complex. five-year agreement on self-

Beirut moves to end television chaos

BEIRUT (AFP) - The Lebanese government has begun a drive to curb the proliferation of television channels in the country, where 48 private channels are already broadcasting illegally, some by satellite.

The cabinet approved a decree on Thursday banning the creation of new channels and, from next Tuesday, satellite broadcasts, pending proper regulation.

However, the decree has not been signed by President Elias Hrawi, and the heads of the major private networks urged him on Friday not to do so. Meanwhile, some accused Prime Minister Rafik Hariri of trying to gain a monopoly on

satellite transmissions for the channels under his control. Mr. Hariri owns nearly ail the shares in the Future TV channel, which has been broadcasting for one year, as well as 49 per cent of Tele Liban, the rest of which is

owned by the state. According to the new de-cree, only Lebanese nationals can use Arabsat satellite television channels for broadcasting. Mr. Hariri, who has Saudi

nationality, has the right to use three of the satellite's 12 chan-The nine other channels are owned by Saudis: Four by businessman Salah Kamel.

four by the Al Mawared Comand one by Prince Khaled Ben Sultan, who also owns the Arabic-language daily Al Hayat. The new regulation sidelines

the strongest channel, the Lebanese Broadcasting Cor-poration (LBC), owned by the former Christian militia, the Lebanese Forces.

LBC signed an agreement with Prince Khaled to secure an outlet via Arabsat, but it could prove useless if the new decree takes effect.

LBC Director General Pierre Daher told reporters the decree was "tailor-made to give a satellite broadcasting monopoly to a well-known channel and to bar us from

satellite broadcasting." The charge was echoed in the opposition daily Nidaa Al Watan, which ran an editorial with the headline: "General outcry against the proposed monopolisation of satellite broadcasts." It said, "business deals are struck, and the law is

then fashioned accordingly."
Officials at Future TV said simply that they saw nothing untoward in reserving exclusive satellite transmission rights for Lebanese nationals.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. welcomes crackdown on settlers

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Friday welcomed word Israeli soldiers had been ordered to track down on Jewish settlers who attack Arabs in the occupied territories. "We recognise and welcome the fact that Israeli officials have made it clear that lawlessness will not be tolerated," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, Mr. McCurry said the United States renewed its call for Israelis and Palestmans alike "to promote the work that will lead to national reconciliation, to do everything possible to exercise maximum reconcination, to do everything possible to the peace process restraint and stop violence at a time when the peace process itself needs to be nurtured." The Israeli army said Thursday that its soldiers had been given orders to "take strong action against Jews engaged in illegal activities or who did not be the control of the control o peace." The prospect of violence between soldiers and settlers has always been a sensitive issue in Israel, where almost every Jewish family has a member serving in the military. In many recent cases of settler unrest, soldiers have stood by - or in at least one televised incident, run away — when confronted by Jews shooting at Arabs. Settlers have rampaged through Palestinian towns and villages in response to attacks on Jews.

Hizbollah leader raps Vatican-Israel deal

BEIRUT (R) — The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Hizbollah BEIRUI (R)— The spiritual leader of Lebanon's rizzonian criticised the Vatican on Friday for a deal it is expected to sign this month with Israel establishing full diplomatic ties. "This (agreement) gives the Zionists and Jews a big moral power in the world because the Vatican is recognising Israel atop the ruin of the Palestinian people," said Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah in a sermon at a Beirut mosque. Sheikh Fadiallah — spiritual mentor of Hizbollah which is fighting Israel forces in South Lebanon and opposes Arab-Israeli peace talks — urged guerrillas in Palestine and Lebanon to launch more attacks against the Jewish state. "When the Vatican recognises Israel at a time when Israel has not given any concessions...this means Israel...will get greater power to oppress the Palestinians," Sheikh Fadiallah said. The deal would make Israel more stubborn about withdrawal from occupied Arab land, he added. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Thursday that the agreement will be signed on Dec. 30. The Vatican, which supports a Palestinian homeland, has always recognised Israel's right to exist within secure borders. "It will give (Israel) power when the world's Catholics consider that Israel is right and the strugglers in Lebanon and Palestine are wrong," Sheikh Fadiallah said.

Arafat urged to reinstate journalist

LONDON (R) International anti-censorship group Article 19 urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Friday to reinstate a Cyprus-based Palestinian journalist it said had been unfairly dismissed by PLO officials in Tunis. The London-based group said in a letter to the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman that it was deeply concerned about Hussaini Hijazi, who has lived in Cyprus since 1984 and wrote for the PLO official weekly Falastine Al Thawra. "Article 19 believes that Mr. Hijazi has been dismissed, and may be deported from Cyprus, for peacefully expressing his opinions and exercising his duty as a journalist," the letter made available to news organisations said. Article 19 said Mr. Hijazi had written an article for the London-based Arabic delly newspaper Al Haunt with land and the landon-based Arabic delly newspaper Al Haunt with landon-based Arabic della landon land London-based Arabic daily newspaper Al Hayat, published on July 26 this year, in which he discussed the PLO internal situation. It said the report "apparently displeased PLO officials in Tunis who decided to dismiss Mr. Hijazi." The Cypriot authorities, tipped off by the PLO officials, then told Mr. Hijazi his residents permit would not be renewed. "We therefore earnestly request your immediate intervention to ensure that Mr. Hijazi is reinstated to his job and that the threat of his expulsion from Cyprus is withdrawn," Article 19's letter concluded.

U.S. carrier battle group arrives in Gulf

MANAMA (R) - A group of U.S. warships led by the aircraft carrier Independence has arrived in the Gulf to enforce U.S. air patrols over southern Iraq, a U.S. navy spokesman said. Aircraft from the carrier have already begun ining flights in connection with air patrols, a navy spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Bahrain told Reuters. Carrier-based aircraft have not patrolled the southern marshes of Iraq since early October because carriers were diverted from the Gulf to Somalia. The battle group includes a nuclear submarine, a cruiser, two frigates and two ships carrying ammunition and oil. The air patrols started in August 1992, using planes from carriers and bases in Gulf Arab states with the aim of protecting the Shiites of southern Iraq from alleged attacks by Iraqi government forces.

Turkish security forces seize hashish

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish security forces have captured one tonne of hashish in the eastern town of Baskale, the semi-official Anatolian agency reported Friday. The hashish, semi-official Anatonan agency reported Pricay. The massiss, captured during a search operation following a tipoff, was believed to belong to the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). No arrests were made. Anatolian said the hashish was ready for consumption and has an estimated street value of 20 billion lira (\$1.4 million). It did not say when the hand was seized. The government alleges that the PKK, which has been fighting for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey since 1984, funds its weapon purchases through drug

22 killed in two road accidents in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Eleven people were killed when four vehicles collided in thick fog in northeastern Iran on Friday, three days after a similar number were killed in another road accident. Eighteen people were injured in Friday's accident which involved a bus, a minibus and two trucks near Pakdasht village on the Tehran-Mashhad highway, Iran's IRNA news agency said. On Tuesday, a truck and a minibus collided on a road in the caspian coast province of Mazandaran, killing 11 people and injuring nine, Tehran's Salam newspaper reported.

dialogue aimed at solving the ate investigation. The YSP was the ruling par-**Most Kuwaitis oppose**

KUWAIT (R) — Most Kuwaitis oppose granting women the vote or the right to stand for parliament, according to an opinion poll published Saturday.

The Kuwait University survey of 3.500 men and women showed 58 per cent opposed political rights for women, 24 per cent wanted women to have the franchise and 18 per cent favoured granting women the right both to vote and to stand for parliament.

The survey published by newspapers showed a sharp split between traditionalist be-douin areas and liberal Kuwait

Ninety-one per cent of respondents in the mainly bedonin Jahra settlement and Kuwait's desert areas opposed giving women either the vote or the right to stand for parlia-

Most Kuwaiti respondents from the affluent central residential areas of Kuwait City

wanted full political rights for women — 77 per cent said they wanted women to have both the vote and the right to stand for parliament.

ment 500 replies had to be cancelled because "many recipients who opposed women's rights filled the sheets with Koranic and other holy verses, poems and idioms supporting

of winning the right to vote after the 1991 Gulf war liberation because of the prominent role women played in the civilian resistance to Iraqi occupa-

During the 1990-91 occupation the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said he would consider giving Knwaiti women the right to vote, although he added the issue

voting rights for women

Organisers said in a state-

their views." Women activists had hopes

required time.

The debate was revived when the country's parliament was restored in October 1992 after a six-year break.

PLO envoy in Jerusalem for first time

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinian representative in London, Afif Safieh, made a bittersweet homecoming to Jerusalem on Saturday after 27 years in ex-ile, the first high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organisa-

in 27 years

tion (PLO) official to make "It's a very moving moment for me. I hope each Palestinian family can be reunited with their loved ones," said Mr. Safieh, 43, after he embraced family and friends with whom

he will spend Christmas. He spoke optimistically of the peace accord, but regretted that the Israeli occupation had turned him into a "nomad" and expressed shock at the number of Jewish settlements

around East Jerusalem. The PLO and Israel broke a 29-year taboo when they recognised each other in the runup to the autonomy accord that they signed on Sept. 13 in

Vashington. Mr. Safieh left home for studies in Europe a year before Israel occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 war. He was prevented from com-

ing home permanently under Israeli laws refusing all Palestinians the right to return and barred from even making a visit when he became a PLO

Under the September autonomy deal, Israel has agreed to consider allowing the permanent return of an undeter-mined number of Palestinians who fled in 1967. Mr. Safieh said he was neith-

er searched nor questioned upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv. Monsig-nor Richard Mathes, representing the Vatican in Jerusalem, greeted Mr. Safieh, a Roman Catholic.

U.N. chief calls for safe return of missing Libyan

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali expressed concern Friday over the apparent abduction in Cairo of Libyan dissident and former Foreign Minister Mansour Kikhia and urged Egyptian authorities to press their inves-

The secretary-general hopes that Mr. Kikhia will reappear safe and sound without delay," a statement issued through a U.N. spokesman

Mr. Kikhia, who once served as Libya's U.N. representative and later went into exile in Europe, disappeared after attending a meeting in Cairo early this month of the

Arab Organisation for Human. Rights (AOHR). He stayed on after the con-ference because he has friends and relatives in Cairo but disappeared from his hotel last Saturday, an AOHR official there told Reuters.

"The secretary-general has been approached on the subject of Mr. Kikhia's disappearance and possible abduction by concerned non-governmental organisations," the spokesman

Dr. Ghali, a former Egyptian deputy prime minister, had contacted the Egyptian authorities and "encouraged them to pursue their investiga-tion into the matter," he said. Mr. Kikhia's family

appealed to the Egyptian government Friday to do more to help solve the mystery of his disappearance. At a news conference in

Washington, two of Mr, Kikhia's daughters, his brother and a cousin said the Egyptian government had delayed four days before agreeing to investigate Mr. Kikhia's disappear-

They said the U.S. and Saudi government had pressed Egypt to pursue the case.

Libyan opposition leaders fear that Mr. Kikhia, in exile since 1981, has been abducted by Libyan government agents. The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said it has been told by a Libyan rights group that Mr. Kikhia was to meet a Libyan government official the night before he

disappeared.

Libya vowed last Sunday to crush opponents of the govern-ment of Colonei Muammar

Oadhafi. The family members said they had conflicting reports of the current whereabouts of Mr. Kikhia 62, who had lived in Columbia, Missouri, before his_abduction.

They said they feared for Mr. Kikhia's health because he is a diabetic who must take insulin injections twice a day. Mr. Kikhia's wife, Baha Kikhia, who lives in France, said a member of her husband's family told her on Wednesday by phone from Tri-poli that her husband was now in Libya, according to the statement published by the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat.

Mr. Kikhia was a foreign minister under Col. Qadhafi from 1972 to 1975, and the Libyan representative at the United Nations from 1976 to 1980. He now lives in Paris where he is the secretarygeneral of a Libyan opposition group, the Rassemblement National (national rally.).

In Cairo, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Thursday that Mr. Kikhia's case was "currently under investigation by security authorities." The United States also ex-

pressed concern Friday about the disappearance of the Libyan dissident. "We've been in touch with

the government of Egypt,

urged them to make every

effort they can find out what ment spokesman Michael

happened," said State Depart-

synagogue."
"The settlers not only

Israeli army which protects them," he charged. The Israeli army clamped a night-time driving ban on Palestinians of Hebron from Friday in a bid to halt carborne attacks on Jews.

also attacking Muslim reli-gious sites in full view of the

The ban will run from sunset to sunrise in the town. The driving ban will not apply to Israelis, including the 500 settlers in Hebron and the 5,000 at the adjoining settlement of Kyriat Arba, an

army spokesman said. The number plates on cars owned by Palestinians living in the occupied territories are a different colour to those on Israeli vehicles.

Hebron settlers force Palestinians to observe Sabbath The 500 ultra-nationalist Sahleh honking their horns, Abraham. They prevent all settlers living in Hebron have while other settlers on foot the young people from entertarget innocent people and keep their fingers on the trigused intimidation tactics to ing it, limit to 15 the number their property, now they are of worshippers at night, and

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AFP) - Every Friday evening armed Jewish settlers close off the main street in the old town of Hebron on the West Bank and force the Palestinians to observe the "I have to close my shop

until Saturday night to avoid being attacked by settlers," 38-year-old grocer Issa Al Muhtasseb. "Every Friday night they begin provoking us. blocking the road with barrels and

preventing traffic from moving," he said. Hebron's 70,000 Palestinian residents have been living in fear for the past three months, amid reprisals by Jewish settlers against the town's population for Palestinian attacks in the occupied West Bank.

show their opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord signed in Washington "We're afraid to move in

this street during the Sabbath. Two weeks ago settlers broke my car windows because I dared to go out on a Friday night," said shopkeep-er Hijazi Khalili, 28. "Al Sahleh street was once

the liveliest street in Hebron. Today we call it the street of the dead," he said.

"The Israeli army gives them a free hand and never intervenes to protect us, even when the settlers children come into our shops and

cause damage," he added.

During the day, settlers drive their cars through Al

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel. 622366

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

gers of their automatic pis-On Wednesday the Israeli

army lifted a nine-day curfew imposed on Palestinians in Hebron after unknown assailants killed two Israeli settlers. The Jewish community was still allowed to move about freely during the curfew.

In revenge for the attack settlers killed three Palestinians. meant to protect the settlers.

"These measures are we're confined to our homes and they can move about freely," complained Ahmad Yassin, a 24-year-old dry cleaner. "The settlers have imposed

restrictions at the tomb of

the Muslims, or the cave of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for the Jews, guard over it.

force us to turn down the

volume of loudspeakers

broadcasting Friday prayers

The tomb of Abraham for

and sermons," he said.

has been a disputed site between the two religious communities sharing it since the Israeli army occupied the West Bank in 1967. Israeli soldiers keep a constant On Friday Sheikh Moham-

mad Hussein, the head of the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, told thousands of worshippers the Israeli authorities wanted to "transform the tomb of Abraham into a

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Ibo Sina Hospital .

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FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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11:66	Rome (
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22:25	Singapore, Kuela Lum
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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO Feature Film: "Mais Qu'est Ce Que J'ai Fais Au Bon Dieu" News in French News in Hebrew You Bet Your Life . Thirtysomething .. News in English The Men Who Killed Kennedy".

O The Golden Palses 23:10

PRAYER TIMESFajr (Sunrise) Duha 06:25 11:32 CHURCHES

Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

ch Tel. 624590.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. im Church Tel. 771751. International Church 652526 ical Lutheran Church Tel: German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of

623541

It will be partly cloudy with clouds appearing at different altitudes. Temperatures will be above average and winds will be southeasterly moder-ate to light. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 27 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghloul 898140
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh 736011
Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916
Firas pharmacy
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
TRRID:
IRBID: Dr. Favez Al Cadi 248743
Dr. Fevez Al Oadi 248743
IRBID: Dr. Fayez Al Qadi
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743 Alquds pharmacy (—)
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Highway Police . Traffic Police Public Security Dep Hotel Complaint 630321 Price Complaints Water and Sewerage Amman Municipality 787111 (directory assistance) <u>121</u> . 010230

HOSPITALS	J
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 8 Khalidi Materuity, J. Anni Akileh Materuity, J. Anni 1 Jabal Amman Materuity 1 Malhas, J. Amman Materuity Malhas, J. Amman Palestine, Shmeisani Shmeisani Hospital 1 University Hospital Al-Musaher Hospital 6 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 7 Army, Marka 8 Oueen Alia Hospital 6 Amal Hospital 6 Amal Hospital 6	644281/ 642441/. 64236. 63614/ 664171/. 66913. 84584/ 667227/ 664164/ 777101/ 75111/2
ZARQA: Zaroa Govt. Hospital (0)	9)983323
Zarga Govt. Hospital (0. Zarga National Hospital (0.	91900560

Government prepares to establish national oil and gas company

AMMAN (J.T.) — In implementation of guidelines contained in the special Throne before rarnament is last month, the government is in the process of establishing and gas coma national oil and gas com-pany to take over the role currently played by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) in prospecting for oil and gas in Jordan, according to an announcement by NRA Director-General Fakhred-

focusing its attention on the Lisan area, along the Dead Sea coast, where it has conducted seismological surveys, said Dr. Daghestani in a statement to the Jordan News

statement in the first quarter of 1994 giving details about the outcome of the seismolo-'gical survey and, in its light, the decision will be taken

Earlier this year, the NRA drilled a well on the Dead Sea coast where signs of crude oil surfaced, but due to the closeness of the well to the sea, water filtered and filled the well.

Currently, the NRA is determining the geological strata surrounding the three wells, Dr. Daghestani added.

In addition, he said, the Jordanian government last July signed a contract with the South Korean firm Hanbo to prospect for crude oil in the Rashah and Wadi Sarhan

The NRA is also focusing on the Risheh area, close to the border with Iraq, where natural gas is being exploited. he pointed out.

The Risheh fields provide nearly eight per cent of Jordan's overall energy requirements, or 20 per cent of the Kingdom's electric power consumption, according to Dr. Daghestani.

"This is a relatively small amount but the NRA is drilling another well south of Al Risheh fields in order to find out if additional gas reserves exist there, he said.

Altogether, he added, 27 wells have been drilled in the Risheh area todate but some of them are unproductive.

In his Speech from the Throne, delivered Nov. 23, His Majesty King Hussein said that "the government has continued oil and gas explorations in the Risheh and Dead Sea regions. It has expanded the capacity of the Risheh gas, operated power turbines and measures are being taken to establish a

national oil and gas company. Referring to the oil shale which is found in abundance in some parts of Jordan, Dr.

Daghestani said that the NRA has been conducting studies on the shale since the 1970s with the purpose of utilising it as an alternative source for oil. But, he noted, the cost of producing one barrel of shale oil proved to be costly, amounting to \$30, which makes the whole process economically unfeasible.

Dr. Daghestani highlighted the importance of the Dead Sea noting that its contents represent a real treasure for the Kingdom.

According to the NRA chief, the Dead Sea area could be utilised as health spa while the water could be a source for chemical products for various industries.

Dr. Daghestani referred to the fertilizers company in Agaba and pointed out that it was consuming some one million tonnes of raw minerals in the course of producing the

He said that the Arab Potash Company (APC) could make better use of the Dead Sea minerals by establishing companies specialising in the production of bromine, magnesium oxide and other products.

Asked on the prospect of exploiting copper. Dr. Daghestani said that Jordan has very limited quantities of this mineral and, in view of the current world copper

the electrification of rural reprices, refining of copper in Jordan is unfeasible. He said that more than NGOs urge governments 150,000 citizens would benefit from the project which, he noted, would raise to 100 per cent the electric power

more development and prog-

ress in that country," said Ms.

Badran. "In Arab countries,

discrimination exists since

birth is mostly reflected in the

parents preference to educate

the boy rather than the girl."

Iraqi children's suffering due

to the imposed embargo on the

country and its influence on

the women and children was

also a topic for discussion.

Sa'adoun Khalifeh, president

of the Family Planning Asso-

ciation in Iraq, pointed out in a

working paper to the wretched

conditions of Iraqi children

and the increasing number of

deaths in the past three years.

the number of deaths among

Iraqi children reached 317,585

this year.

from 1990 until the end of June

"Those who were born after

the embargo do not know the

taste of sweets... they only

hear about them in films and

pictures," he said. "There

should be a humanitarian

effort that would put an end to

injustice and cruelty that

brought death to the Iraqi chil-

Sarojini Vittachi expressed

hope that coordination and

cooperation would be streng-

thened among governments, NGOs and the people to "monitor and implement hu-

man rights goals," and that the role of NGOs should be a

complementary one to the gov-

ernment rather than confronta-

UNICEF's regional director.

According to Mr. Khalifeh.

At present, Mr. Ujeilat said, 98 per cent of Jordan's districts are supplied with electricity.

He said the national plan was drawn up by JEA in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs as well as the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) and the Irbid district Electricity

Company, - 52 Processor-Generally Marwan Bushnaq said Saturday that the company plans to take steps to cope with the growing demand on electric power supply within its region through the company's five-

year development plan Under the plan, JEPCO intends to set- up main transformer stations and strengthen overhead cable transmission. The plan also entails boost-

ing the capacity of 24 existing

transformer stations.

Jordan. India boost trade links

AMMAN (Petra) - India is to organise an industriai fair in Amman in September or October of 1994 in order to display samples of its manufactured products to the Jordanian public, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Marwan Awad.

Mr. Awad made the statement upon his return to Amman from a visit to India where he led the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Indian economic committee which discussed boosting economic and trade links between the two coun-

tries. India will buy aluminium fluoride and will boost its imports of fertilizers from Jordan to 1.5 million tonnes and of potash to 500,000 tonnes, up from 350,000 annually, said Mr. Awad.

In return, Jordan has agreed to facilitate and encourage Jordan's imports of Indian products especially rice, fresh and frozen meat, wheat, sorghum and engineering equipment at current world prices, said Mr. Awad.

He said that the two sides also agreed that private sector businessmen from Jordan and India should meet in the second half of the coming year to discuss prospects of cooperation in industrial fields and in launching joint economic ventures based on India's experiences in small and medium size industries.

Peacekeepers and PSD officers get Royal medals

General Udwan paid tribute

to the Jordanian peacekeepers

who, he said, had contributed

towards lessening tension in troubled areas and served as

ambassadors of their country

honouring of the officers would give them further incen-

ceremony in Amman, Satur-

day, in observance of Arab

tives for further sacrifices.

He expressed hope that the

Gen. Udwan also attended a

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces has conferred Jordanian. peacekeeping medals" on PSD officers participating in the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Croatia and Cambodia.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director Genera! Abdul Rahman Al Udwan presented the medals to a group of officers representing the units taking in the peacekeeping mission during a special ceremony held at the PSD headquarters Saturday.

Electric

to cover all

of Jordan

next year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announced Saturday that electric power was supplied to 240 villages during 1993 at the overall cost of JD

Two hundred more villages

will be electrified during 1994

at the total cost of JD 10

million, in accordance with a

national plan for the supply of

electricity to all regions, said

Samih Ujeilat, JEA director of

power

14 million.

vices and distributed Royal Police Day. Brigadier Mohammad Taramedals to them. He also opened a PSD club which cost nearly JD 7 million. zi, the PSD assistant chief for judicial affairs, delivered an Qatari education

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari Education Minister Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Turki Saturday started a four-day official visit to Jordan. Upon arrival he announced that his country. was concered in bolstering its ties with Jordan in all fields.

Mr. Turki, who was met upon arrival by his Jordanian counterpart Dr. Khaled Omari, said that he would meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and would hold talks with Acting Prime Minister Maan Abu Nowar and Higher Education Minister Saeed Al Tell as well as other government officials to promote Qatari-Jordanian relations.

Mr. Turki, who is scheduled to visit the University of Jordan and other Jordanian higher education institutions, said Jordan and Qatar were linked by a number of educational

agreements which help bolster

Expressing hope that the visit would further bolster bilateral ties. Mr. Turki said that his discussions here would mainly focus on cooperation in educational fields.

address noting that the

anniversary serves as means of

honouring all policemen in the Arab World.

He stressed that the occasion

gives impetus to the PSD to

exert all efforts towards con-

tinued modernisation of its sys-tem and ensuring stability and security for the Jordanian

Later, Gen. Udwan hon-

oured a number of officers who

had performed remarkable ser-

lateral scientific, cultural and educational cooperation to involve most Arab states, he added.

Accompanying Mr. Turki on the visit, is a large delegation of officials from the ministry of education in Oatar.

minister starts visit

people.

ties between the Qatari and Jordanian people.

Dr. Omari, who extended the invitation to Mr. Turki. said upon welcoming him at the airport that the two sides would work out an executive programme for the implementation of an educational and cultural agreement earlier signed by the two sides.

Qatar hopes to expund bi-

NEWS IN BRIEF

House to hold a session today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament holds a session Sunday to hear government replies to queries by members of the 12th Parliament. The House will listen to a reply by Information Minister Jawad Al Anani about Jordan Television coverage of news about the Palestinian expellees in Marj Al Zohour and another by Awqaf Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi about matters relaterd to the Islamic cemetery in Amman. The House will also request that a special session be held later to debate the on-going peace process and Jordan's stand with regard to this process.

Cabinet forms delegations

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cabinet Saturday formed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab ministers of transport due to be held in Cairo on Dec. 28. It also formed Jordan's delegation, which represents the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), to travel to Syria and buy an international telephone exchange system for the TCC. It also approved of the Ministry of Tourism's participation in a tourist exhibition to be held in Berlin at the beginning of next year.

Archaeological excavations continue in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) - The Department of Antiquities announced Saturday that archaeological excavations are currently under way at the Ayleh Islamic site in the port city of Aqaba. It said that the site dates back to the early Islamic era, noting that a team of archaeologists from Chicago University in the United States is helping the department to carry out the excavation work.

Abbadi meets Iranian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Awgaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Saturday received in his office Iran's ambassador to Jordan and reviewed with him ways for bolstering bilateral cooperation in religious affairs. They also discussed prospects of exchanging visits by ulemas and Muslim scholars and publications. Dr. Abbadi also met Saturday with the head of a Palestinian society organising pilgrimage for Muslims from Palestinian lands occupied since 1948. Arrangements for facilitating the trip to the pilgrims were discussed with the society president.

Omanis begin training course

AMMAN (Petra) - A team from the Omani ministry of education has started a training course at the National Centre for Educational Research and Development. The centre director, Victor Al Billeh, said that the Omani officials will learn about the centre's projects which entail controlling and promoting educational programmes for Jordan. He said that the team members will be touring a number of educational

SSC to open new branches

AMMAN (Petra) — According to an announcement by the Social Security Corporation (SSC), several SSC offices will be opened in the north, south and central parts of Jordan in the coming year. Ali Jaafar, director of the department in charge of the SSC's expansion, said that the new branches were needed to facilitate the corporation's work and take care of compensation, pension, occupational incidents and other

RSCN delegation leaves to Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) - A delegation from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), led by its director Maher Abu Jaafar, left Saturday for Cairo to take part in a meeting on the conservation of nature and the protection of the environment. Mr. Abu Jaafar said delegates representing various non-governmental institutions in the Arab World will discuss the formation of pan-Arab bureau on the environment. The delegates to the three-day meeting will review their respective countries' experiments in the protection of the environment.

Ministry of Supply draws up new line for food subsidies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordanians with a monthly income of JD 500 will not be entitled to government subsidies for rice, sugar and milk under new regulations expected to go into effect in the new year, officials said

The Ministry of Supply is working on a mechanism to ensure that only those in the under-JD 500 monthly-income bracket would be issued coupons for the subsidised food items, the officials told the Jordan Times.

They said the income would be determined on the basis of individual incomes rather than the collective income of the family in the initial stage.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, a noted columnist and economist, said that the effect of the new system will be two-fold. On the one hand, only those under the income level will be entitled to subsidies while on the other the follow-up work involved in receiving coupons after providing necessary documents related to income and other details might discourage many others.

"This would mean that only those in actual need would actually go through the procedures to get the coupons," Dr. Fanek pointed out.

The officials said that the idea of limiting food coupons to certain income brackets and thus ensuring that subsidies reach only those who really deserve the help was mooted in 1991, a few months after the government introduced the coupons.

"It was a difficult process to determine who actually deserves the subsidies, and the formula based on JD 500 monthly individual income appears to be the best starting point," said a senior official. "The government objective

has not changed, and it will ensure that the needy among, sumers involved. At the same the population continue to get subsidies, the official added. Each Jordanian adult is enti-

tled to 1.5 kilogrammes of rice and 1.5 kilogrammes of sugar kilogramme of milk powder every three months

The subsidised rice is available at 150 fils and sugar at 170 fils per kilogramme while the open market price for both items is 360 fils per kilogramme each. One kilogramme of subsidised milk powder is available at JD 1.100 while the market price is JD 1,600.

Jordan used to spend up to JD 60 million per year for food subsidies in the late 1980s. It has gradually brought down the amount by introducing the coupons in 1990.

One of the first measures sought by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the economic restructuring programme it prescribed for Jordan was the withdrawal of subsidies.

Jordan resisted IMF pressure and sought instead to reduce spending in other sectors and only gradually cut the sub-

Subsidies have been allocated JD 30 million in the fiscal 1994 draft budget compared with JD 36 million for 1993 and JD 43 million in 1992. The bulk of the allocation, however, goes to subsidise wheat to hakeries and households.

Officials declined comment when asked whether the government intended to increase the price of bread in 1994. Reports have indicated at the Ministry of Supply was studying the issue and might introduce an increase during the

One of the regular complaints raised by the officials is that there is a heavy wastage of bread in Jordan.

"Many consumers huy bread and feed it to animals since it is cheaper than fodder." said one of the officials. Jordan now consumes more

than 600,000 tonnes of wheat -every year compared with 400,000 to 450,000 tonnes three years ago - an increase which is not compatible with the annual population growth as well as the sudden increase in population as a result of the return of more than 300,000 people from the Gulf after the Gulf crisis of 1990-91.

Officials admit that it is very difficult to apply regulatory measures for wheat if only because of the huge consumption and the number of contime, they also noted that reg-ulations have kept the price of bread in Jordan the cheapest in the region.

Dr. Fanek said part of the be saved as a result of the new system for subsidised food.

'One element that is not very clear yet is whether fluctuations in international prices for sugar, rice and milk are reflected in the allocations for subsidies," Dr. Fanek said, pointing out that the government would be reducing its cost if the prices went down.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition artist Hanan Al Dasouqi at the Student Affairs Deanship at the University of Yarmouk in Irbid. * Art exhibition by artists Ibrahim Al Abduli and Abdul Hussein Twaij at Alia Art Gallery.

☆ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Sabounji at the Royal Cultural Centre.

☆ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled
"The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaled Hijazi, Mohammad Al Ameri, and Adnan Al Sharif at Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

☆ Art exhibition by artist Hani Al Hourani entitled "Impressions from Wadi Al Walah" at Baladna Art Gallery.

☆ Art exhibition by artist Samia Zarou at the Open Studio "Al Marsam Al Maftnh," Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-17:00 all days except Fridays).

☆ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Fumun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2),

☆ Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles).

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

🛱 Christmas bazaar at Al Nukhbah Exhibition Hall, University Road (Tel. 837304, 684257).

☆ Christmas bazaar at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun. ☆ Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibi-

tion/Airport Road. ☆ Christmas bazaar by Jordan River Designs at Regency Palace Hotel (10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.) (Tel. 656872).

DRAMAS

☆ Drama entitled "Family Dispute" at the "Drama Theatre" at Yarmouk University at 12:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Israel, PLO meet in Oslo

(Continued from page 1)

nian presence. Israel warned on Friday there would be no agreement to implement Palestinian self-

Jericho before 1994. The Oslo meeting ws

Cairo. Mr. Egeland said. The United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, also

Mr. Egeland said the talks would focus formally on creation of a Palestinian police broker the PLO-Israeli accord

The PLO representative in Norway had said on Friday night that Mr. Peres would lead the Israeli delegation and

But Mr. Egeland, one on the Norwegians who helped to

in secret talks in Norway this year, said in an interview with NRK state radio: "I have no reason to believe that Peres will attend."

Mr. Egeland said Israel, the PLO, the United States and Russia had asked Norway to host the talks.

port, that sale of the unirsity has never been contemated and that this week's two sur sit in staged by some 80 OU workers "was aimed priarily at urging the Palestinian adership and the world comunity to help the university it eserve its status and pursue "noble mission."

asanein.

"We have reason to believe t the financial and other oblems facing the university e on the way towards a satis-

din Al Daghestani. At present, the NRA is

leab les 121-17£

A STREET

ives in Gulf

o bashish

AT BARBAY P

Agency, Petra. The NRA plans to issue a

whether to pursue test drilling the operations in the Lisan area or halt there, Dr. Daghestani continued.

> drilling two other wells. further away from the old well, with the purpose of

to uphold children's rights By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Under the title:

Together for the sake of the

zhild," Arab human rights ictivists Saturday welcomed a all for cooperation with the Arab governments to put the: J.N. convention on the rights tf the child into operation. At the start of a two-day eminar on the best methods to fromote Arab children's rights numental organisations 1 -- 12 :

NGOs) should adopt to promite these rights, representaives of different Arab human ights organisations agreed hat there should be conmuous cooperation and coorination between the governcents and the NGOs. "It is a matter of attitude," aid Huda Badran, president

f the Cairo-based Arab Yomen's Association at the pening session of the seminar hat was organised by the Uned Nations Children's Fund UNICEF). "All governments earn to upgrade their (human ights) status... and they won't bject to improvements if the pproach (by the NGOs) was aat of help and not of con-

Ms. Badran, who delivered a seech on the need of imlementing the convention of ie rights of the child in the rab World, was responding one of the questions raised n conflicts that exist between overnments on the one hand ad NGOs on the other.

There is a clear conflict

Staff Reporter

MMAN - A committee rep-

senting the workers of the mman-based Al Quds Open

niversity (QOU) has denied

irlier reports alleging that the

niversity is being sold to simad Tamimi, an Arab-merican living in the United

itity contributing to the edu-

tional objectives of the

"Dr. Tamimi has reached a

intract with QOU to buy its

ogrammes which he can later

arket to Arab communities

ing in America," according

committee chairman Khaled

He told the Jordan Times.

hich had published the earlier

merican living in the United tates, and stressed that QOU ould remain as a Palestinian titty contributing to the edu-

alestinian people.

need to adopt a stand in which the child has to be separated from the conflict arena.

Amin Mekki from the Cairbased Arab Lawyers Union pointed out that "partnership" between governments and NGOs is a difficult task to achieve. The conflict, for ex-

NGOs that we can't ignore,'

said Egyptian Fawzi Farghali,

executive commissioner of

Arab Scout Movement. We

ample, that exists between a certain government and a minority in that country is going to necessarily influence the rights of the child. From Iraq, Manal Yunis, president of the General Fed-

tion can be achieved. and is needed because NGOs possess more precise information, are more aware of the issues at stake and are more in

actin to follow. of the meeting. Some indicated that the discrimination between boys and girls leads to major ills in the society; for

that the main problem lies in the way in which this coordina-

touch with the people." Ms. Yunis said. "But it (coordination) is difficult. What we really need is to define a plan of Participants in the first day of the seminar also stressed on the need to address the rights of girls as one of the priorities

example, high illiteracy rate among women more than men. "As much as the discrimina-

eration of Iraqi Women, said Coordination is possible

tion gap narrows between boys **Al Quds Open University** lenies sale report

> factory solution," said Mr. Hassanein in an interview, but he declined to elaborate. The workers, who staged the protest Tuesday, issued a state-ment noting that QOU, which has been providing distance education to 4,000 Palestinian students, was facing the consequences of a financial sus-

pension of Arab and international aid since the Gulf war. The crisis, said the statement, deprived the workers of their salaries for more than five months, denied the freelance teachers their pay, caused production of programmes to cease, prevented QOU from opening branches in Arab states, halted Jordan Television educational programmes beamed to Palestinian students and led to the resignation of

many QOU teachers. . The statement, a copy of which was handed to the Jordan Times, noted that the workers and their families were facing a difficult time while the students future hung

in balance It said that a memoranda listing the grievances have been sent to Palestine President Yasser Arafat urging him to give priority to finding sufficient funds for QOU programmes and pay workers their salaries. The memoranda

appealed to wealthy Palestinians and the European Com-munity to extend aid to QOU and urged the Gulf states to release frozen funds allocated

for QOU.
The QOU project, which was launched in 1985, was in response to a real need for higher education among the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the diaspora. At the request of the Pales-tine National Fund (PNF) and with assistance from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social

Development, UNESCO com-

pleted the project's feasibility

study in 1980 and QOU was inaugurated in late 1985. QOU has been preparing multi-media distance education learning materials designed by academic staff and assisted by experts from local universities and from distance education institutions in other nations.

QOU, the only distance

education university in the

Arab World, was primarily

established to serve the Palesti-

nian students but, once re-

sources and circumstances per-

mitted, there were plans for

enrollments from other Arab countries. However, the current financial strait has temporarily halted expansion plans.

tain full responsibility but would allow a symbolic Palesti-

rule in the Gaza Strip and the autonomy deadlock in

arranged after Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst contacted Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat when the two leaders failed to break

asked Norway to arrange a new meeting between Israel and the PLO. Mr. Egeland

Mahmoud Abbas would head the PLO delegation.

Jordan Times

أو بالمد يومة عربية تسلسه تستقل بعد. بالإنطارية عن الإنسية السنطية الأنسية.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AI, KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH
Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4 Telex: 21497 ALRAI J() Facsimile: 696183

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Haunting crossing points

OF ALL the disputes that arose between the PLO and Israel in the wake of their Sept. 13 accord on interim self-rule, the control over border crossings between Jericho and Jordan, on the one hand, and between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, on the other, may prove to be the most difficult. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is showing insensitivity to the request of the Palestinian side to exercise meaningful supervision of border points in the Jericho enclave and Gaza due to his well-known obsession with security for his country. It is of course possible that the Israeli prime minister is exhibiting toughness and inflexibility just for the sake of domestic political reasons. But the cycle of violence that surged in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli deal has, no doubt, also complicated matters for the two sides.

The Palestinians' view is totally different from Rabin's since their control over border crossings is the least acceptable manifestation of any semblance of sovereignty over the small territories that Israel has agreed to yield to them on the basis of the Gaza-Jericho first formula. Otherwise, these tiny areas would become mere enclaves surrounded by Israeli soldiers with no apparent freedom to go one inch beyond the dictates of the Israeli military regime. Small wonder then that Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij lamented the failure of the Rabin government to give the PLO effective supervision over the border points and described the situation without such an Israeli concession as untenable for and an enslavement

of his people.

Given the diametrically opposed perspectives on this thorny issue, there is a growing fear that the accomplishments of the past three months on the Palestinian-Israeli front could unravel. From the looks of things, Rabin is not likely to budge on this matter. Likewise, PLO leader Yasser Arafat cannot afford to appear as having made yet another big concession to Israel at a time when he is already beleaguered and injured due to his signature of the Sept. 13 agreement. Two possible scenarios are left for the two parties to contemplate: Either to reach a deadlock, which is in neither party's interest, or accept a reasonable compromise that would leave both camps with some sort of coordinated control over the border crossings during the envisaged interim period. As long as what is sought for the time being is a temporary resolution of the problem, till there is final settlement of the Palestinian question, the latter option would appear the lesser evil. With this understanding in mind, the entire peace package aiready attained between the PLO and the Rabin government must not be allowed to slip away. There are very high stakes in the September peace accord and an important issue

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

lasting peace in the region.

as the border issue should be temporarily

resolved for the sake of the higher objectives of

AL RA'I daily Saturday called on the Arab negotiators with Israel to re-consider the whole Middle East process because it is clear now that from its stand with regard to the Osio deal with the PLO the Israelis are seeking to gain more time and win the the world community's support for their policies which are hostile to the interests of the Arab World. Of course, the PLO leadership is to blame for signing documents considered as incomplete, ambiguous and unclear, thus opening the way for a different interpretation by the Rabin government, said the paper. It is to be regretted now that some of us have trusted the Israeli intentions and confided in the United States which served as a guarantor of the PLO-Israeli deal regarding the Gaza-Jericho first option, continued the paper. It is now clear for all that the Rabin government is striving to embarrass the PLO leadership, which can not draw back from the Oslo deal and for which it is impossible to give more concessions to the Israelis in view of the strong internal Palestinian opposition, the paper added. It seems that Israel is continuing the drive to reduce to a minimum the Palestinian gains so that it can guarantee that the autonomy rule remains an easy prey for the Israeli government and easy to control and contain, added the daily. It said that there is no alternative for the PLO leadership but to turn back to the Arab World for backing, to enable it to handle the Israeli manocuvres and coordinate all its steps with those of other Arab parties to the peace process.

MERE TALK about a teachers' association in Jordan can by no means satisfy the teachers' needs or convince them that the government or Parliament are taking steps to help safeguard their interests, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. For the past three years, the teachers have been struggling to set up a union to help protect their interests and help them improve their salaries and working conditions, said Bader Abdul Haq. The reply to all this was the creation of the so-called Teachers' Club and promises by Parliament that it would work out a set of regulations helping the teachers to establish their union, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

low to survive Israeli competition

Normalisation of economic relations with Israel is definitely coming. It will be one of the conditions for peace between Israel and any Arab country. Therefore, we should find out whether the Jordanian industry is able to survive the competition of the Israeli industrial products or whether it will shrink and be crowded out of its markets by the Israeli industry. To answer this crucial question we should first state four obvious facts:

First is that Israel is an industrial country and belongs to the "first world" while Jordan is a developing country of the Third World — As a rule, the manufactured products of developing countries are not able to compete on equal footing with the products of the industrialised countries without protection.

products of the industrialised countries without protection. Second is the fact that the Jordanian industries are not able to stand competition of foreign imports in the domestic market. That is why the Jordanian infant industry was given a customs protection of 30 per cent as a minimum and 50 per cent as a maximum. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) which is known to advocate free trade, recognised this fact and admitted that the above level of protection is justified in order for the Jordanian industry to survive.

Third is the fact that the Israeli economy is heavily subsidised. In fact, it is by far the most subsidised economy in the world. Israel receives unrequited transfers of around \$6 billion a year from various sources, prominent among whom are America and Germany. The competition between the two economies is therefore unfair.

Fourth is the fact that Israel proved during the 45 years since its inception that it is not a normal state with defined boundaries. It is rather an expansionist Zionist project. Strengthening the Israeli economy may tempt Israel to enter another round of geographic expansion bid at the expense of Arab land, either through wars or by other means.

We have no reason to volunteer to strengthen the Israeli economy and enhance its economic base until Israeli rulers prove through action not words that they have abandoned expansionary designs and converted Israel into a normal peaceful state with recognised borders, just like the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was required to abandon its charter calling for the dismantling of Israel.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

If Israel needed five years of transitional period to test the intentions and good will of the Palestinians, we need the same period to make sure that Israel is no more a security threat.

These facts do not only imply the answer, they also indicate the remedy. The Jordanian industry is unable to stand competition of the Israeli industry without protection. The remedy is to apply the custom protection measures, now in force towards all foreign imports, without giving Israeli exports any extra advantage over the imports from other trade partners, such as Germany, Japan, U.S., Turkey etc. Normalisation of economic relations should mean treating Israel like any other foreign country without discrimination: No free trade area, no common market and no custom union.

Jordan should not wait until after an accord is reached with Israel. Customs posts should be installed immediately on the bridges. The bridges must be treated as an international border point, just like our borders with Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, as far as customs and passports are concerned. This step is overdue. Any hesitation or delay will be at the expense of Jordan's national interests.

Jordan, as a sovereign state, should assert its authority on the bridges and put an end to the current situation, where Israel has been deciding, unilaterally, what is permitted and what is not to cross, and in what direction when it comes to the movement of people and goods for the last 26 years.



The violence among us

By Bernd Hüppauf

Violence and acts of brutality are going on in every corner of the world at this moment. Wars and civil wars that no one seems to have the power or determination to stop — in the former Yugoslavia, in Georgia and Azerbaijan, in Northern Ireland, in Nigeria — continue unab—: And what might be called in indeclared wars in our cities, from Los Angeles to Johannesburg, also spiral out of control.

I do not have a solution to this pervasive manifestation of violence. But it seems to me that if we frame our idea of violence as an aberration, a deviation from the path of normality, we are making a profound error. We run the risk of unwittingly justifying neglect of whole segments of society while ignoring the increasing power of violence generated by society itself, which in modern life increasingly seems to isolate and brutalise the individual. We cannot hope to solve the problem of escalating violence until we have redefined the concept of violence and changed our perception of

Recent scholarship suggests that the world has never seen a region or a period without violence. In all previous cultures it appears to have been accepted as part of a natural or Godgiven order. Violent acts were endemic and normal.

In the 18th century, with the industrial and political revolutions and the emancipation of the individual, perceptions changed: the Enlightenment "denaturalised" violence. It be an to be unacceptable in soc.ety, and as it could not be justified before the court of reason, the objective of a society free from violence began to

emerge. People began to speak of a utopia: a civilised society (to use Kant's phrase) in eter-

But this denaturalisation of violence required a new concept of "legitimate" violence. The end of its natural history led to the emancipation of violence from mythical and religious significance. Violence was turned into a means; it was freed from traditional limits, and, now defined as a response to unlawful rule and domination, it was justified even before the court of reason.

This legitimisation of violence produced not only the Other — the perpetrator of "bad" violence — but gave rise to the pervasive forms of violence we think of as characteristic of modern life. This ubiquitous aggression, which we may experience at home, in a factory or at school, has been called structural violence.

By the end of the 19th century, production had become conflated with destruction, and the economies of industrial societies were increasingly based on the destruction of landscapes, lives and property. Technology provided the pattern not only for economic progress but also modern wartare. Consider typical photo-graphs from World War I. With the proud gestures of factory owners or of merchants in front of their stores. German officers posed on huge piles of rubble. Standing on the ruins of blown-up houses and forts, these officers demonstrate to the viewer the astounding success of modern armaments, made possible with the latest technological innova-

At the same time, we find it psychologically difficult to accept that violence is the product of our own making. The disbelief that wars and brutal

acts are still possible in our world is part of our distress when reading the news about

violence in Yugoslavia, Somalia or the far side of our town.

As long as we maintain the concept of western history as one of a civilisation moving from barbaric violence to rationality and peace, open and brutal violence is perceived as part of another world—one that was once beyond the northern border of Greece, where the barbarians lived, and is now beyond the border of our own civilisation or the walls of our own home, where the others live.

These others are distanced by space and time. They are societies of the East or the South, people in the poor and uneducated quarters of our cities. From this perspective, violence becomes an intruder from an outer sphere and is present in our world by default, as an exception, a deplorable relic in an otherwise civilised system.

But is there really a difference between a sniper taking aim above a Sarajevo street and a frustrated worker in Detroit who pulls his gun, between looting an aid convoy in Mogadishu and drug dealing in affluent quarters of New York, between a rape here and a rape there? The dividing line we like to draw between ourselves and those who we fear is an illusion: violence is as much a part of each of us as it is of our society.

As long as we hold the view that violence belongs to times and places that are not ours, or to early childhood before we are properly socialised, we are victims of a perception incongruous with the reality in which we live. Our idea of modernity—and as a result, our perception of ourselves and our world

— could turn out to be unten-

able.

To abandon the idea that western civilisation is en route to a world of peace does harm to our pride, but we must take a sceptical view of the possibility of eradicating war and violence. Yet accepting that the world will not be free from violence is not the same as accepting violence. Paradoxically, letting go of the ideal of eternal peace may increase our ability to make peace.

"The Israelis and the Palestinian peoples who fought each other for almost a century have agreed to move decisively on the path of dialogue, understanding and cooperation.... I want to tell the Palestinian delegation that we are sincere, that we mean business...."
"We will need more courage and determination to continue the course of building co-existence and peace between us..... Such a shift will give us an opportunity to embark upon the process of economic, social and cultural growth and development."

These statements, the first by Shimon Peres and the second by Yasser Arafat, made at the signing of the Middle East pact on Sept. 13, were concrete and practical; they did not refer to a vision of a world free from violence and war.

It is not the time now to echo the grand vision of human perfectibility and historical progression. The end of the utopian ideal of eternal peace should not only be interpreted as a loss but also as an act of liberation. It is time that new insights into the violence structure of our psyches and of modern society be turned to committing concrete and localised acts of peace — The New York

Dynamics of peace — give and take which could bring conciliation

By Michael Jansen

THE POSTPONEMENT from Dec. 12 to Dec. 22-23 and then the repostponement for at least "three weeks", in the estimate of Israeli officials, of the signing of an agreement between the PLO and Israel on implementation of the Declaration of Principles negotiated in Oslo and signed in Washington on Sept. 13 has more to do with traditional Zionist/Israeli claims to the "land" of Palestine than the preservation of "Israeli survival" and "Israeli security."

Israel is, and has been for three decades, the predominant military power in the Middle East. Its "survival", therefore, has not been a real issue since the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, and even then the fledgling Jewish state was not fighting for its existence from a position of weakness vis-a-vis its Arab neighbours but from a position of strength.

tion of strength.

But because Israelis define the "security" of their state as the ability of Israeli military and police forces to guarantee the safety of all Jews living within the territories Israeli controls, Israeli leaders claim that the "security of the Jewish state is under threat" if Jews are being threatened, assaulted and killed by Palestinians. And this threat provides an excuse for postponement.

ing over territory to the Palestinians means a renunciation of sovereignty over

such territory.

The second aspect is the size of the Jericho enclave. This also involves sovereignty. Israel is prepared to cede the Jericho municipality and the neighbouring, largely empty, refugee camps amounting to 35 square kilometres of territory. But the PLO demands the handover of the entire Jericho subdistrict, defined during the British mandate, of some 350 square kilometres. A Palestinian entity in the West Bank comprising 350 square kilometres could claim the acity enclave of only 35 square kilometres could not.

a city enclave of only 35 square kilometres could not. The third aspect is control over roads used by Jewish settlers in both the West Bank and Gaza and the fourth is the Israeli army's right of pursuit of Palestinian activists into Palestinian-held areas after the Israeli withdrawal. Both involve

sovereignty.

The other issue which causes Israel problems in the negotiations with the PLO is the problem of defining boundaries, deciding where Israel begins and ends. Since the Versailles Peace conference in 1919, at which the Zionists presented maps of their future state, they have been extremely reluctant to delineate the precise bound-

"The Israelis have not yet realised that the Arabs' price for peace is return of land the Israelis cannot imagine themselves relinquishing. They continue to believe that they can make a deal without giving up control and sovereignty over 'The Land'. This is why on Dec. 13 Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin refused to make a conciliatory on compensatory gesture towards the Palestinians in order to maintain momentum in the peace process. He and his colleagues still do not understand the dynamics of peacemaking, the process of give and take which would bring peace and conciliation."

The method of defining threat — and regarding security - masks an historical Zionist/Israeli mind-set on the issue of "the land of Israel" which governs the thinking of a majority of Israelis and the key figures in the present Labour-led coalition. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres belong to the independence generation of Israeli leaders for whom "land" acquired by Jews be-came inalienably "Jewish". holy "land" promised the Jews by their tribal God,

Yahweh.

There is a solid psychological barrier in the minds of such men to handing over any land, even one inch of land, to the Palestinians. So they, following in the footsteps of the nationalist camp led by the Likud, can be expected to resist for as long as possible the transfer of control over territory, any portion of the land to the PLO.

There are a number of aspects to control, all of which involve sovereignty. The person who pointed out this fact was Shulamit Aloni, head of the Meretz Party, the most concessionist faction in the present Israeli coalition. And even she was not prepared to grant the PLO "sovereignty" over any portion of the land which Israel claims,

The first aspect is control of the crossing points from the neighbouring Arab country and the North Country and the Market Country and th tries into Gaza and the West Bank. Israel says it should retain control, citing the agreement at Oslo that Israel should be in charge of exter-nal security. The PLO, however, says that Israel should not be in a position to open and close the doors to the territories. Therefore, there should be joint Israeli, PLO and international control. Israel has rejected this idea because it wants to use its control of the frontiers of the territories through the stationing of forces along those frontiers to maintain its sovereignty over those terri-

Israeli spokesmen make their intentions crystal clear when they say that they must decide who enters Israel through the crossing points. The Israelis have not yet got it into their heads that hand-

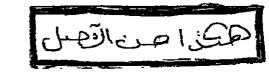
aries of that state. And to complicate matters, various political parties have laid claim to different tracts of territory. Thus, the dominant Herut faction of the Likud claims the East as well as the West Bank of the Jordan and Lebanese territory containing the headwaters of the Jordan River while ideologues of the right-wing Tehiya Party, which had ministerial posts in the last Likud government, would like to reconquer

One of the founding fathers of the Jewish state, Norman Bentwich, said that the borders of Israel should be like the skin of an animal which expands in times of plenty and shrinks in times of want. Any handover of territory to the Palestinians signifies not only shrinkage but an eventual drawing of boundaries limiting the expansion of the skin of the Jewish state and challenging the mind-set of the majority of Israelis and their leaders.

The Israelis have not yet realised that the Arabs' price for peace is return of land the Israelis cannot imagine themselves relinquishing. They continue to believe that they can make a deal without giving up control and sovereignty over "The Land". This is why on Dec. 13 Israeli Prime ---Minister Yitzhak Rabin re--fused to make a conciliatory or compensatory gesture to-wards the Palestinians — by releasing prisoners or making a token withdrawal — in order to maintain the momentum in the peace process. He and his colleagues still do not understand the dynamics of peacemaking, the process of give and take which could bring peace and conciliation.

And Israel's refusal to come to terms and act in accordance with what can be called the "spirit" of making peace cannot but have a negative impact on negotiations between the Jewish state and its other Arab interlocutors. Prevarication and procrastination do not create a climate of confidence. As the Palestinian problem is the core of the Arab dispute with Israel, lack of progress on the . '-Palestinian track could mean stalemate on the other three tracks in the negotiations.





Conservation of architectural heritage is a duty for all

By Samer G. Bagaeen

AMMAN — The symposium on the Conservation of Architectural Heritage in Jordan and the Arab World condant Nov. 24, at the University dan and the Arao work com-cluded, Nov. 24, at the Uni-versity of Jordan's Department of Architecture of the Engineering and Technology

The papers that were presented, encompassing both national and international expertise and experience, have raised issues that are of interest not only to architects, but also to sociologists, anthropologists, archaeologists and eco-

nomists. The role societies play

in processes such as conservation as a social development process were cited with reference to particular international experiences.

The introductory paper scrutinised the criteria by which sites were selected for inclusion on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Other papers examined the urban aspects of conservation at the neighbourhood and city levels.

Another theme was the subject of symbols or abstracting the traditional language of design into modernist design traditions. The relationships and interactions between conservation and tourism, labeled "toy-town syndrome" and "engagement in voyeurism" were also pondered upon and de-

The subject of public interaction with either conservation or preservation was raised over and over again by many of the speakers. Questions raised included: How can people the public — be aware of heritage and conservation and contribute to the debate when the forums through which they can express either pleasure or dis-pleasure with their built environment do not exist? or. Why is it that where these forums exist, they are not easily ac-

Decentralisation of decisionmaking processes in our cities

and the adoption of flexible visions for future urban expansion instead of an inflexible master plan were proposed as the alternative vision. This new vision also promises to chart future progress within the so-cial and economic domains that will supplement this future expansion.

هكذا حدن النَّصِيل

But what should the role of the architect be in this new managerial structure that proposes to deal with archaeological, urban and rural conserva-

One of the symposium's recommendations suggested that the architect be subsumed into a proposed council for the protection of heritage, a trust entrusted with the task of coordinating between the numerous ministries, agencies and institutions that are concerned with conservation.

It was also proposed that this council include politicians. anthropologists, economists, archaeologists and sociologists so as to have the authority to enforce any recommendations or proposals that it might want

I believe that if we can have all these professionals working together and with representatives of the public, maybe com-munity-based organisations. then we would be on the right track towards making conservation beneficial to all.

'American interest in Islam growing'

By Rosalind Mar dine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Interest in learning more about Islam and the Muslim community is growing in the United States, two advocates of interfaith relations said December 13. This interest, they say, has been spawned by heightened awareness of the need for understanding and dialogue among

religious groups in America. Mustafa Malik, director of research for the American Muslim Council, and Stephen Gell, a member of the board of directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. discussed interfaith tolerance during a WorldNet television dialogue with participants in Abu Dhabi, Beirut and Riyadh. Arab participants included journalists and government officials.

While a lack of understanding of Islam and the Muslim community persists in the United States, "great progress" is being made to reverse the problem of intolerance. Awareness among Christians. Jews and Muslims to do something about it (intolerance) is much greater today," Mr. Malik stressed. Problem recognition, in turn, has stimulated wider interest in Islam and increased interfaith dialogue, both he and Mr. Gell noted.

This "tremendous amount of inquisitiveness," according to Mr. Malik, is reflected in the daily inquiries he receives from U.S. media seeking facts on the Muslim community and Islam. Mr. Gell noted that his National Conference has set up a telephone hot-line for the media to get accurate facts on different religions, including For Mr. Gell, education is the key. "It is important for Americans to understand" Koranic teachings and Islam's basis of religious telerance, he said. Therefore, "much more has to be done" to edu-cate Americans about the Muslim community, especially through "promoting interfaith dialogue... the more Muslims can interact with the general community... the more Amer-

icans will understand" them. Founded in 1990, the American Muslim Council works to promote interfaith relations and combat prejudice against the Muslim community in the United States, Mr. Malik said. He added that the AMC also works to promote human rights and democracy throughout the Muslim world, an activity he emphasised during the WorldNet programme.

"Islam is a very tolerant religion, but that is not what we are actively doing in Muslim countries," Mr. Malik said. There ought to be "greater intra-tolerance" among Mus-lims in the United States and throughout the Muslim world, he added. Muslims ought to discuss problems in the community "among ourselves and through democratic means... (we) must be prepared to look hard at ourselves - then we will be able to relate to others

in a more informed manner. The National Conference of Christians and Jews, founded in 1927, works to promote a greater understanding in the United States of different religions and cultures, Mr. Gell said. He noted that the name of the conference is no longer accurate in that the organisation is "open to people of all religious, cultural and racial backgrounds."

Unless we show that kind of diversity ourselves, we can't hope to be credible when we teach diversity to other peo-

ple," he said. Participants in Saudi Arabia Lebanon and the UAE raised the issue of President Clinton's recent meeting with British au-thor Salman Rushdie in the context of interfaith understanding. (Rushdie is under an Iranian death sentence for blaspheming Islam is his novel

"The Satanic Verses.")
In Defence of the White
House decision, Mr. Gell said the U.S. remains "open to a wide variety of views... no matter how hurtful those views may be seen by some groups. The issue of free speech "plays strongly in American society. he stressed, and is "guaranteed by the First Amendment" of the U.S. Constitution. In meeting with Mr. Rushdie, the president was, in effect speaking for Americans in espousing the view of free speech," Mr. Gell asserted.

This view of free speech may "not be seen the same way in other parts of the world," Mr. Gell noted, so it is important for Americans "to be sensitive to other groups." Americans have a "difficult time recotten a letter to President Mr. Clinton criticising his meeting with Mr. Rushdie. He stressed, however that the organisation defends the principle of freedom of speech as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution: "We won't protest (against Mr. Rushdie's) publishing house, and (we) don't agree with (Ayatollah) Khomeini's death - United States Information Agency.

1993: An historic breakthrough toward peace in N. Ireland

By Allen Nacheman Agence France Presse

LONDON - Britain's admission in late November that it had, contrary to all public vows, been secretly dealing with the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) for most of 1993 hit like a thunderbolt. It forced Prime Minister

John Major to eat the words he had uttered with indignation in the House of Commons only weeks earlier, that talking with the IRA "would turn my stomach.'

It also kicked up scathing denunciation from all directions and for a time appeared to cancel all bets and put the Ulster peace process back to square one.

But as the dust settled and the year wound down, there were signs that the seeds of an historic breakthrough in ending a quarter century of sectarian bloodshed in Northern Ireland had been sown.

Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew, despite acrid exchanges with the IRA's Sinn 经证金 付護 Fein political wing over revelations of the secret exchanges. made an unprecedented offer in the House of Commons: If the IRA "unequivocally" renounces violence, "exploratory" talks could begin the first.

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week in January.

The revelation of secret IRA. contacts nearly scuttled London's peace talks with Dublin, which under the 1985 Anglo-Irish accord was entitled to a say in any dealings concerning

having been kept in the dark about the IRA talks, and worse, at learning that London had been passing information about their own private meetings on to the IRA.

Deep wounds festered between the Catholic IRA and London, between London and Dublin, between London and the majority Protestant Unionists who fear Britain will loosen its claim on Northern Ireland.

But as Christmas approached, there was an almost palpable sense that, with the secret out of the bag, some terrible yoke had been lifted that would allow peace talks to shift into a higher gear.

After a quarter-century of sectarian warfare that killed more than 3,100, injured 35,000 and left a gentle, pastoral land torn asunder, peace seemed finally in sight.

The year produced a high and a low in the Northern Ireland conflict: the single bloodiest month in 17 years --28 dead in October — and the first proof the government was dealing with those it termed

"The disclosure puts posi-tions out in the open and they become part of the political process," said Ulster University political science Professor Paul Arthur.

The realities were more

With everything out in the open, Mr. Major found himself walking a tightrope, viewed Irish Premier Albert Protestants and the Dublin

The IRA and the government traded insults and accusations, posturing for the public relations high ground, each claiming the other had initiated the secret talks.

Ian Paisley, fiery head of Ulster's Democratic Unionist Party, condemned the government for dealing with the IRA, and was expelled from the House of Commons when he called Mr. Mayhew a "liar" for having denied the contacts.

The more moderate James

Molyneaux, with whose Ulster Unionist Party Mr. Major was forced to strike an alliance last summer when he needed their nine votes to pass the Maas-tricht treaty on European union, was holding his fire...

The loose cannon in the scenario was the IRA's Protestant counterparts, the Paramilitary Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) and Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

Smaller and not as well armed as the IRA, the UFF and UVF were reportedly recruiting heavily and smuggling in more weapons as a hedge against an eventual British

Some blamed the backlash on London's talks with the "People are coming to real-

ise that the only language the British government understands is violence," said Belfast Ulster Unionist councillor Jim Rodgers.

"The Unionist community has seen how the IRA wins concessions from the British government through vio-

to support a treaty banning drift-net fishing within the san-

The European Community

imposes a maximum net length

of 2.5 kilometres on member

states but an increasing number of Asian boats - mainly

Japanese and South Korean -

are attracted as much by tuna

as by legal loopholes and use

huge nets.
"It's particularly absurd since they've banned drift-net fishing in their own waters,"

Four Asian tuna trawlers

were seen deploying more than 100 kilometres of drift-nets near Sardinia last summer

while the captain of a French

navy vessel looked on hel-

To persuade political leaders they need to act quickly, scien-tists must gather information on the numbers of animals

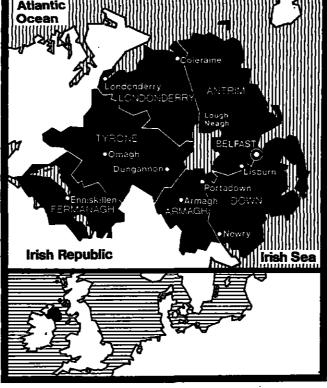
concerned. But they lack the

money to conduct effective

They have to hitch rides on

Mr. Riddell said.

cutary.



another Unionist hardliner. "So it's understandable that

some people are turning to violence to defend the union. If they believe that the British are about to abandon them, you can expect more vio-

The Irish premier, despite his initial bitterness, has held two meetings with Mr. Major. the latest one during Friday's E.C. summit meeting in Brus-

Officials said the two would meet again, possibly next week in London, and Irish diplomats suggested some elements of a peace plan might be

But the two sides went out of their way Friday to warn against raising false hopes.

Mr. Reynolds said that although another meeting was planned, "I am not saying I can have a finalised peace initiative before Christmas. There are still differences to be over-

A senior British official said the talks Friday were "quite good and we made more progress....I hope — it is by no means a certainty — I hope we can reach a successful conclusion between now and Christ-

mas," said the official.

The government has much at stake. It keeps some 19,000 troops in Northern Ireland. spends some \$3 billion a year there and still must contend with IRA attacks on the mainland that keep the British on tenterhooks.

"The truth is that in Engiand, Scotland and Wales only a politically insignificant minority cares a fig about the future of Northern Ireland," said the Independent on Sunday.
"People want an end to

wrecked shopping centres and maimed children, an end to security alerts and bag searches, an end to the sheer tedium of hearing and reading

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CHEESE

FRENCH , DANISH

SWISS, LOCAL

Politics muddy efforts to save dolphins sections of the U.S. convention

By Penelope Hocking-Vigie Reuter

ANTIBES, France - Red tape and politics are hampering efforts to save thousands of Mediterranean dolphins that die each year in lethal drift-

Made of nylon of the same density as water, the huge nets used for tuna fishing cannot be detected by the dolphins' sensory system and an estimated 8,000 are trapped every year. France, Italy and Monaco promised a year ago to set up a 73,000 square kilometres sanc-

tuary in the western Mediterranean to protect the graceful marine mammals. Political considerations.

bureaucracy and lack of money have prevented their "declaration of intent" from being implemented. Experts from the seven west-

ern Mediterranean countries - France, Monaco, Italy, Spain, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco — met recently in the French Riviera resort of Antibes to discuss how to turn good intentions into reality.

The seminar was organised by the Antibes-based Association for the creation of an international Maritime Reserve in the Western Mediterraneau (RIMMO) whose first international conl'ference in October last year

called for the sanctuary. RIMMO says about five per cent of the Mediterranean dolphin population — as well as whales and turtles — dies in the nets every year.

The proposed sanctuary would be bounded by the French Riviera, Italy's Ligurian coast and Corsica. However, the signatory countries lack the legislation necessary to police it.

As international law stands. the ban on drift-nets applies only to their own fishermen.
"Beyond the 12-mile territorial limit, the high seas are a no-man's land. There is no protection for fauna in over 80

per cent of the western Mediterranean," said RIM-MO's English-born President Mike Riddell. The 1982 United Nations convention on sea rights, due to come into effect next year, allows states an exclusive economic zone stretching 200 miles from shore, with powers

to preserve biological resources and protect the environ-"The ideal solution would be to divide up the Mediterranean into 200-mile zones," Mr. Rid-dell said. "But the 18 countries

concerned cannot find an agreement which pleases everyone. Law Professor Alain Pi-

nar's Legal Committee, said the Mediterranean was too small for each country to claim 200-mile zone.

"There are too many conflicting interests, and there would be almost no high seas left," he said. He said the sanctuary dec-laration had little legal force

car ferries or pay for rented boats by taking on board "eco-logical tourists". This restricts most of their survey work to quemal, chairman of the semisummer months and coastal To enable year-round observation, RIMMO will equip a boat for use by the seven countries present at the

surveys.

As the unwieldy political and legal machinery rumbles on, the graceful dolphins continue to end up in drift-nets. and the signatories could use

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES

(TENDER NO. 39F/93)

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MINE PROJECT ADDENDUM (1)

JPMC hereby announces that the closing date for submission of bids has been extended until 14:00 hours local time Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1994.



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ADDENDUM (1) been extended until 14:00 hours local time Monday, Feb. 7, 1994.

Managing Director

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MINE PROJECT). JPMC hereby announces that the closing date for submission of bids has

Sameh Madani

Algerian presidency (Continued from page 1) Mr. Kebir also demanded

the lifting of laws passed during nearly two years of emergency rule, setting up a consultative group of government and opposition members. trying those responsible for repression against the opposition, and talks with the FIS in a poutral venue.

Over the last month the auaborities have hinted they were willing to include FIS people or those close to the party in talks to chart Algeria's path to

democracy, derailed when the election was cancelled.

The official APS news ageney appeared to exclude direct talks with the FIS but was open to the possibility of talks with

its supporters. It said anyone who accepted certain principles, including the commitment to alternating power and to the republican character of the state, could take part in talks.

Regarding the FIS's specific case, the National Dialogue Commission has made clear it

makes a sharp distinction between this party as such and the Islamist movement in which it had its roots," APS said, citing sources close to the commission.

'One should not lose sight of the fact that many ex-FIS militants are not terrorists and condemn violence." APS "The ex-FIS militants and

those in the Islamist movement who found themselves within this organisation thus have as much right as anyone else to participate in the dialogue." An Algiers court in March 1992 hanned the FIS.

Asia, Middle East focus of S. African tourism drive

JOHANNESBURG (R) — or declined in the same period. I ses flying into South Africa. South Africa, emerging from the numbers from India soared decades of apartheid isolation, by over 47 per cent. is turning to the Middle East. Asia and other African coun-"tries to bolster the fortunes of ats post-sanctions tourism in-· Justry.

But more emphasis needed > to be placed on levels of ser-" vice and personal safety which the South African Tourist -Board said were "still not . viewed in a positive light by the majority of tourists.

Visitors today accept that . when you travel to many coun-, tries it can be a fairly hazar-..dous exercise... violence here is largely concentrated in areas not frequented by tourists." board executive director Spencer Thomas told Reuters.

While visitors are not (usually) mugged or attacked they felt a sense of unease," Mr. Thomas said.

Despite the violence, the mimbers of foreign visitors rose by more than 10 per cent in the first nine months of the year, compared to the same period in 1992, the board said. And while the number of visitors from traditional markets including Britian, Israel

The numbers of visitors from Zambia, once one of "white" South Africa's most vociferous foes, increased by 38 per cent.

"As a result of the imminent new political dispensation in South Africa, there has been an encouraging increase in the number of visitors to the country," said tourism board chairman Piet Van Hoven, referring to next April's universal franchise election ending more than three centuries of white domination.

Mr. Van Hoven said the numbers of visitors from other African states were expected to rise in the short term as "South Africa now plays an increasingly important role in the continent in terms of trade and technology.

He said it was board's policy to encourage people in Africa "to look south" for shopping, medical attention and study opportunities.

Nick Stathakis, director for Africa and new markets, said the board was determined to exploit new markets made possible by the recent increase and Holland rose only slightly in the numbers of foreign air-

Seventeen African airlines r ow fly into Johannesburg and 2:r links have recently been established with the Gulf states, India, Pakistan and Middle Eastern and Asian

"I have already visited several new markets, includingthe United Arab Emirates, Cyprus, Kenya, Tunisia and Zambia. I will also visit India in the near future," said Mr.

Figures just released by the board showed the numbers of business visitors rose by more than 23 per cent in the January to September period over

The board said markets showing exceptional growth in-cluded Germany, the United States, Australia and Taiwan.

"The consistent growth in the Asian tourist market is an indication of its tremendous potential. Growth in business traffic of 33.9 per cent from Taiwan was recorded. India, Malaysia and Singapore are also showing increasing interest in South Africa as a long-haul destination," the board said in a statement.

Oil mischief stems from U.S.'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said the United States was behind the sharp fall

"This oil mischief stems gom America." Tehran's Abrar newspaper quoted Mr. Nateq-Nouri as saving.

They play with the price of oil, they start an oil war. Oil prices fluctuate and they usualis go down. To avoid a crisis. I we should tread somewhat carefully and tighten our belts. Mr. Nateq-Nouri said. It was the first time a senior

severely cut into Iran's re-

Prices have dropped about 30 per cent this year to fiveyear lows of about \$14 a barrel. Iranian statement have blamed the most recent downturn on the high output of producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at a time when world recession has

dampened demand. In particular, they have studiously avoided blaming fellow OPEC member.' Saudi Arabia Iranian official had directly and other big Gulf Arab problamed the United States for ducers which Iran's Islamic

the fall in oil prices which has leaders usually denounced as agents of U.S. policies in previous oil market crises.

"There is no analysis pointing to the United States preparing military action against us. If the United States does that, the biggest loser will be itself." Mr. Nateq-Nouri said.

"But for a political or economic offensive it does not need new preparations because it is already busy doing it," he said, citing the oil issue, criticism of Iran for its human rights re-cord. and the death order against British novelist Salman

U.S. economy completes year of transition

THEN A VOICE ANSWERS, NOTHING PERSONAL

YOUR NAME JUST HAPPENED TO COME UP...

Higher taxes urged to trim Australian unemployment

CANBERRA (R) — A government report has urged Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating to raise new taxes for a job creation drive to tackle one of the industrialised world's worst unemeployment rates.

Proposals by a panel of ex-perts created by Mr. Keating in May aimed at attacking longterm unemployment and slashing the jobless rate to five per cent by the year 2000.

The panel said its programmes would slash the pool of long-term unemployed to 90,000 by the year 2000 from 440,000 currently while fundamentally reshaping the country's labour market.

The wide-ranging proposals, which include creating jobs in the private sector for six to nine months for the unemployed and revamping social security programmes, will be considered for the government's budget statement in

May.
"We are starting to see aggregate employment pick up but what we will not see, unless the government and the community focus on this problem. is those jobs being under taken by the long-term unem-ployed," Mr. Keating told par-

But the proposals outlined in the 241-page draft strategy entitled "restoring full employment" are expensive and could put the government in the uncomfortable position of either taising taxes or trimming back other government prog-

The total cost of the panel's proposals could be as much as 1.3 billion Australian dollars (\$875 million) in the year to June 1995, rising to 2 billion Australian dollars (\$1.3 billion) a year for the following two fiscal years, the sevenmember panel said.

"I think the way the government has embraced the report is blatant hypocrisy," opposi-tion leader John Hewson told parliament. "These are the people that created the one million unemployed.

Australian has one of t he worst unemployment rates in the industrialised world, standing at 11.1 per cent in November and near last year's record high 11'.3 per cent. Mr. Keating said the rate

would remain relatively high even as the economy streng-thened in the mid-1990s unless those out of work for more than a year returned to the

workforce. ▲ The report said without such programmes, Australia risked an unemployment rate of around seven per cent by 2000 if the economy continued ex-

panding at its current pace.

To reach the goal of five per cent unemployment — the target of Switzerland and the Netherlands - Australia needed economic growth of between 4.5 and five per cent , the report said.
Such growth is considered

doubtful, even by some of Australia's more optimistic economists.

The report suggested that the government create a "job compact" to provide jobs for six to nine months for those who had been out of work for an extended period and whose job prospects were "demonstr-

crisis in major supplier Zaire.

batteries for electric cars.

stepped back from the market.

ably poor." Most of the jobs would be in the private sector. The panel, comprising seven

academics and government officials, also recommended an allowance for those caring for children, which would also be available for the spouses of people in low-paid jobs.

Mr. Keating, whose 1993
election promises included the

creation of 500,000 jobs over three years, said such measures were at the root of Australia's egalitarian culture. The ethos of this country

has been around the question of social particiaption, a fair go' and a fair opportunity to participate in our society," Mr. Keating said.

The government said it would respond to the proposals with an official statement early

Japan plans extra budget but delays 94/95 draft week passed a 709 billion yen extended parliamentary ses-

tion government says it is planning a third supplementary budget for this fiscal year to try to boost the stalled economy. But it will break with tradi-

tion by leaving the draft of next year's annual budget until after the turn of the year. 'We decided to compile the 1994/95 budget in the coming year and to draw up a third

supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, while deliberating political reform bills," Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said in a weekend statement. "The economy remains in a

severe state which requires close monitoring and we need to ensure we get it on a recovery trend in 1994/95 and on a stable expansionary path in 1995/96,`' be said. Mr. Hosokawa's coalition

has had to fend off criticism that it is not doing enough to stimulate the economy.

(\$6.56 billion) second supplementary budget for this fiscal year.

The extra cash is needed to balance the overall budget for 1993/94 and to help finance a six trillion yen (\$55.5 billion) economic stimulus package announced in September.

The daily Asahi Shimbun Saturday quoted chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura as saying that the third extra budget would be a drastic and full-scale one.

But Mr. Takemura told a news conference late Friday that the government would not be able to compile the annual budget for fiscal 1994/95 by the end of this year.

The full budget is usually compiled by the end of December for parliamentary approval by the fiscal year-end on March 31. But Mr. Hosokawa appears to have put higher sion due to end Jan. 29. Mr. Hosokawa has earlier pledged to enact political reforms by year-end or take responsibility, suggesting he would either resign or call snap

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful business lobby Keidanren, said a delay in drafting the 1994/95 budget would run counter to policies to stimulate the economy.

By delaying the budget process, Mr. Hosokawa can also buy more time to negotiate with coalition allies and the finance ministry over tax re-form plans for 1994/95, including an expected cut in income taxes of more than 6 trillion yen (\$54.5 billion).

The finance ministry has been insisting that income tax cuts must form part of a single piece of legislation that includes an offsetting rise in con-The budget committee of priority on passing political reparliament's upper house this form bills during the current cent.

by the lack of demand in these

Wyss of DRI/McGraw-Hill

administration's success in

patching together the unravell-

ing North American Free

At the same time, the com-

pletion of tortuous negotia-

tions on a new General Agree-

ment on Tariffs and Trade

round is uplifting to analysts.

er, many analysts believe the

next move will not come from

newly invigorated American

companies and a less stressed

consumer, but from a very cautious Federal Reserve wor-

ried that the expansion might

spawn inflation.

Over the short term, howev-

Trade Agreement.

Analysts also point to the

"Europe is still a drag (on

free-market roar up to \$20 a few months later," a trader said.

HOROSCOPE

price jumps even further next year, traders said.

Cobalt prices soar

LONDON (R) — The price of cobalt, a strategic metal used for hardening alloys in jet engines, has soared this week by nearly 40 per cent fears on market shortages and a political

News that Zaire's metal-rich Shaba province had declared

The Africans usually announce the price and deals are

autonomy last weekend initially triggered the price rise. The

indecision of Zaire and fellow African producer Zambia over

their sales terms for next year also pushed prices higher.

being done well before the end of the year," one trader said,

noting that the market was beginning to calm Friday.
"But their delay this year, along with other factors, caused

consumers to panic over early new year requirements and this set in motion a chain reaction," he said.

lightweight, heat-resistant alloys favoured in engines and turbines. It also has a possible future as an ingredient in

Stocks are getting low and producers, who were forced to

compete aggressively to sell their metal earlier in the year.

By Friday, prices were steady at up to \$15.50 a pound for good quality Western origin cobalt, around \$4 higher than a

African producers are holding off from setting in case the

They did not want to set a price of \$15 only to have the

Cobalt, a by-product of copper or nickel mines, makes

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A considerable amount of tension due to changes in your plans could annoy and upset you this evening as the Moon squares Mercury and Venus and nothing turns out to go as you had ex-

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find you can put across whatever ideas you have of a creative nature but later make a point not to go off on any tangent that could be harmful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can make whatever special arrangements that are important to you at home during the day but tonight be sure to avoid involving yourself in new obliga-

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find it possible to uncover whatever information can be utilised to your advantage during the day but tonight sidestep an arrogant associate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You see ways to make your possession more attractive or valuable so do so and then ease out of a situation where a comrade is upset. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You

can accomplish much by getting an early start enjoying the outlets that you like the most but then avoid getting involved in duties that irk you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A private time with the one you love the most can make

this a banner daytime but then in the evening don't allow discon-tent to warp your better judg-

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Be with good friends as much as possible during this day. who being gregarius is very good for you but tonight steer clear of unreliable acquaintance.

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SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get out in public places early to gain some support that can put you in a more advantageous position, then find ways to improve your bud SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your mind is racing in new directions now which are very good for you so follow through with them during the day but tonight avoid a public

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your intuitive perceptions give you the right slant for gaining more headway in the future while tonight don't let secret worry cause snapping at confidente.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be openminded about a project coming to your attention in the outside world and turn to your benefit but tonight don't react to a blunt speaking wisecracker.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have every chance today to look at surroundings and to improve them more to your personal wishes, tonight don't respond to criticism of a bigwig.

struggling, sometimes exhausted economic recovery got a second wind as the year drew to a close, showing a vital reservoir that has set the stage

for more vigorous growth in It was a year of intense economic restructuring by both

families and industry, with business replacing expensive debt with equities and individuals refinancing almost punitive long-term debt financing costs. Interest rates dropped to their lowest levels in a genera-

tion as the Federal Reserve (Fed), fuelling the bull stock market, but troubling some older Americans living on fixed incomes even as it unleashed what some economists call a revolution in personal finance.

The low rates finally stimu- \$2.0 trillion as they fled low

ndy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

HEE!

Peanuts

A

-WASHINGTON (R) — The lated housing sales as well as new auto purchase as consumers apparently decided that rates were probably near their

At the same time, companies kept shedding workers as they sought more efficiency, but as the year progressed job creation overtook this process with the unemployment rate in retreat.

"It has been a transition year from an economy struggling and beset by troubles to one now growing perhaps in a healthy way with bright prospects." said Allen Sinai with Lehman

Bros. Global Economics. Part of the personal finance revolution was a staggering increase in the mutual fund industry through October with investors adding nearly \$250 billion into stock and bond funds, bringing assets to nearly

SOMETIMES, I LIE AWAKE AT

gar ya gangdanya an Maran amadan ma

WEETHEAR WHEREVE YOU

WELL THE KID DID HAVE ON LONG PANTS

SAY, MUTT-DID YOU

GOT ON A BUS WEARING

LONG TROUSERS? THE DRIVER CHARGED HIM

EVER HEAR THE JOKE ABOUT THE KID WHO

STOP ANOTHER KID GETS ON!

JES WEARING

SHORT PANTS

SO-HALF-FARE!

NIGHT AND I ASK, "WHY ME?"

interest bearing certificates of accounts.

Clinton administration, despite sion is going to be much stronsome early missteps, has ger than expected. turned out be a surprise for

cave in on deficit reduction. While critics believe the administration has not gone far enough in cutting the country's huge deficit, not to mention the debt accumulated over decades of living beyond its means, policymakers have put a deficit reduction plan into effect and seem to be sticking

to their promises. "There is no question that the administration has turned out to be unexpectedly strong on the deficit and so, in fact, has Congress," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Co.

LOOK, MATE, DON'T MESS ABOUT - IF YOU WANT TO BUYMEA DRINK

THEN A LADY GETS -ER-JEFF!
ON THE BUS! SHE
DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY IS BEING PRINTED

CAN YOU GUESS PAPER! CHILDREN
WHY? WHY?

MAY READ THIS!

The generally upbeat feeling deposits and other bank among many U.S. analysts comes as evidence is mounting The young and energetic that the fourth quarter expan-

Some analysts think the cureconomists, many of whom be- rent quarter, fed by strong 3.0 per cent next year as conlieved it would talk tough but auto sales and a rebound in sumer confidence continues to activity because of the damaging Midwest flood this summer. may hit as much 5.0 per cent after growing 2.7 per cent in the third quarter, although four per cent seems more

They think the increase will slow in the first quarter although all of next year will uncork the best showing since 1988 when economy moved

ahead by 3.9 per cent.
Since then, the economy has generally been in repose, moving ahead 2.4 per cent in 1989, 1.2 per cent in 1990, showing a recessionary 0.7 per cent decline in 1991 and rebounding since this country's ability to export has been held in check with a 2.6 per cent gain last weakened markets.

The economy is now expected to move ahead by about 2.7 per cent or 2.8 per cent in the U.S. economy) but not as 1993 and will be at or exceed much of a drag," said David 1993 and will be at or exceed heighten, companies and individuals improve their debt profile, and more jobs are created.

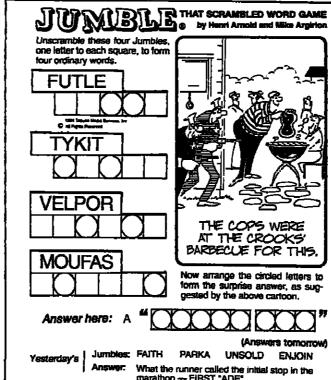
"The forces of light have reemerged to take over from the forces of darkness," exclaims Mr. Sinai. This is in stark contrast with

Europe and Japan, where the slowdown is continuing. Some improvement is expected next year even as these massive economies continue the pain of restructuring that is largely completed by the United States.

However, the slowdown overseas is also stalking the U.S. economy



"I'd like to defrost your cold heart, Stanley, but you're not cooperating.



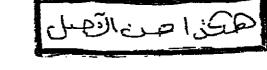
THE Daily Crossword by Al Becks 1 Goalles' milleu: 6 Cake decorato 10 Rajah's wifa 14 Painting genre 15 Wisdom of the ages 16 Muscet's land 17 Seed cover 18 Moslem priest 19 Fastener 20 Not worth keeping 22 Radial 23 Musical end 24 Ate hungrity 26 Palmer, e.g. 30 Aromatic hert 32 Arab prince Lang Syne" 39 Free 41 San Francisco feature 43 Come in 44 Clumsy boats 46 Lat. abbr. 47 Wilkes—. Pa. 49 Despot 51 Certain light 54 — in one's Yesterday's Puzzle Solv 11 Forcibly, old styte 12 Mother-of-pear 56 Musical group 57 Kind of soprano 65 Hoarded 66 Fit 67 Mislay 68 Trample 69 Antiered one 70 Tons and tons 71 On in — (old) 1 Sheep shed 2 Peak — even keel 38 Sensed 40 Spirited horse 3 Sudden be 4 Art deco name 5 Position 6 War epic 7 Battles 8 Of a period 9 Cure 10 Dog breed 45 Pragmatic one 45 Pragmatic one 48 Remember 50 Turbulent 51 Violin, for short 52 Erle or Huron 53 Ransack 55 Presages What the runner called the initial stop in the marathon -- FIRST "ADE" 60 Eye part 61 Bring up 62 Does arithm



0. K!

THE LADY HAD

A TRANSFER!



Lebanon cuts tax to 10 per cent

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's parliament has passed into law a government plan to slash corporate and personal income tax to 10 per cent in a move to attract investors and boost revenues, officials said.

for the Allite

The new tax law will take effect at the beginning of 1994. The highest personal income tax bracket is now 43 per cent

35 per cent, officials said. The new law requires corporations to pay 10 per cent as a flat rate and five per cent on distribution. Individuals concerned with the highest bracket would pay 10 per cent.

The proposed cuts are part of a drive by the year-old government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri to attract capitand the corporate tax ceiling is all and talent for post-civil war the new law would improve tax

reconstruction and to restore Beirut's former status as a regional financial centre.

A new governor and management team at the central bank has already launched a crash programmek to revive the Beirut foreign exchange, equities, debt and money mar-

Mr. Hariri told parliament

collection, which has suffered from double book-keeping and other non-transparent prac-

Minister of state for finance Fuad Saniora said the government could not burden investors with heavy taxes when they had many opportunities and alternatives in other Middle Eastern countries.

Those last-minute changes in the GATT agreement "would result in an additional 1.2 million tonnes of subsidised vegetable oils being allowed to enter

Malaysia is the world's leading exporter of palm oil.
"We are of the view that the developing countries should be compensated for the reduction in benefits due to them, including future improvements in market access for processed products." Mr. Lim said.

Italian backs austerity moves

ROME (R) - Italy's parliament gave its backing Friday to unpopular measures contained in the country's 1994 budget.

Members of the chamber of deputies (lower house) voted 232 to 64 in favour of the measures, which will squeeze spending in education, health and pensions.

The budget, which aims to trim about 31 trillion lire (\$18.2 billion) from next year's budget deficit, has caused a huge wave of protest in Italy.
with demonstrations an almost daily feature.

More than 500,000 students protested last weekend against education reforms in the

Kuwait sees five offset parliament arms deals early 1994

foreign arms suppliers will sign offset trade agreements that will bring the country about \$500 million in investments, finance ministry officials said Saturday.

They said aerospatiale of France, GKN of Britain and three U.S. companies — Raytheon Company, General Dynamics Corp and TCOM — were likely to sign the agreements during the first quarter, said the officials. who would not be named.

Under rules introduced since the 1991 Gulf war foreign firms doing business with the Kuwaiti state must reinvest 30 per cent of the value of the contract in projects of their choice.

If the contract is worth more than five million dinars (\$17 million), the project can be in Kuwait, countries of the Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait ex- Cooperation Council (GCC), company so far to sign an pects that in early 1994 five the Arab World or elsewhere offset deal with Kuwait. in the world, in that order of preference.

The members of the GCC are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Oatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Companies signing contracts worth less than five million dinars must contribute money to an offset development fund set up to promote private busi-The five firms had submitted

a range of business proposals

that extended beyond the defence field, the officials of the ministry's Counter Trade Offset Programme said in a briefing.
"The sectors the companies

are thinking of is very diverse. They are not centred on their core defence capability." one of the officials said.

G.M. Hughes Electronics Corp has been the only foreign

As part of a deal to sell Kuwait an air defence early warning system for \$92 billion. it is investing \$27.6 million in a joint venture to do logistics and service work throughout the Middle East. It expects to start up by late February 1993.

Raytheon is selling Kuwait up to 450 Patriot missiles. General Dynamics is selling up to 236 M-1A2 Abrams tanks. TCOM is supplying a balloon radar system. Aerospatiale is supplying an undisclosed number of missiles to the armed forces and GKN is supplying about 200 Desert Warrior

armoured fighting vehicles. The value of the multibillion dollar contracts is secret and

the maker.

cannot be calculated from the value of the offset accords. That is because offset applies only to supply direct from

Malaysia slams GATT farm export provisions KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia said Saturday the GATT world trade pact favoured large industrialised countries. particularly in respect to the interest signed in Geneva Wednesday.

countries and suggested smaller countries be compensated for their losses, especially in

"We would like to express

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

larly in respect to the interest of developing countries in agriculture." Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik said. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

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193,500 6,150 6,150 4,120 4,190 4,190 4,50

steers the world toward an open market. The GATT has 114 members. "The U.S.-EC agreement on

> to efforts undertaken to liberalise the world agriculture trade system." Mr. Lim said. The European Community (EC) and the United States, in last-minute haggling, agreed to slow down reductions in export

subsidies, largely to appease

France's strong agriculture

agriculture is a major setback -

the international market Mr. Lim said.

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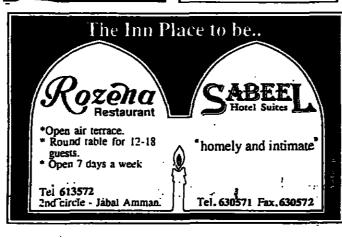
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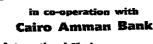
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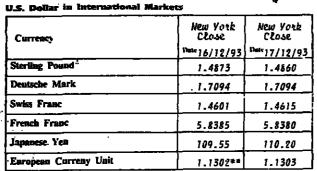


Financial Markets

Jordan Times

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USD Per STG European Opening of 8:90 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			Date: 17/12/93		
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.31	3.62	
Sterling Pound	5.69	5.37	5.25	5.12	
Deutsche Mark	6.62	6.25	5.81	5.31	
Swiss Franc	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.78	
French Franc	6.59	6.40	6.06	5.68	
Japanese Yes	2.31	2.06	1.93	1.81	
European Currency Unit	6.81	6.50	6.17	5.68	

Date: 18/12/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0429	1.0481
Deutsche Mark	0.4105	0.4126
Swiss Franc	0.4792	0.4816
French Franc	0.1202	0.1208
Japanese Yen's	0.6346	0.6378
Dutch Guilder	0.3668	0.3686
Swedish Krops	4444	*****
Italian Lira	0.0416	0.0418
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currenties	Date: 18712/199		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dipar	1.8370	1.8710 -	
Lebanese Lira	0.040575	0.041525	
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1885	
Kuwaiti Dinor	2.2250	2.3200	
Qatari Riyal	0.1902	0.1916	
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0_2220	
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1.8250	
UAE Dirkam	0.1902	0.1916	
Greek Drachma	0.1820	0.3235	
Cyprict Pound	1.3475	1.3865	



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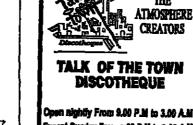
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Shelling reported in Bosnia as **Croats release more prisoners**

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Fighting with heavy arms has persisted in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, while shelling lessened in the capital Sarajevo and the breakaway Muslim enclave of Bihac, in the northwest, a U.N. spokesman said

Saturday, U.N. military observers meanwhile were to inspect the Rajlovac and Grbavica districts in northwestern Sarajevo later Saturday following reports that front lines had changed there after several days of heavy fighting, said Major Idesbald Van Biesebroeck of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Some 2,000 shells fell Friday between Gracanica and Doboj, about 100 kilometres north of here, where Bosnian Serb forces are fighting Muslim-led Bosnian government forces, the spokesman said.

He also reported artillery and tank fire near Kalesija, east of Tuzla, near the border with Serbia. But in Sarajevo, "tension

lessened" after intense shelling in the past few days, the spokesman said. Clashes between the Bosnian army and secessionist forces in Bihac also decreased.

Croat forces meanwhile released 101 Muslim prisoners from the Rodoc Prison Camp. in the southern Mostar region,

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's

511-member lower house of

parliament could be dissolved in January for general elec-

tions, an opposition leader was

the former ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP),

made the prediction in a speech in Hiroshima prefec-ture, western Japan, Jiji Press

"The situation surrounding

the economy and other areas is

very serious. An unemploy-

ment issue is expected to

emerge after the turn of the year," Kono said.

"I'm sure opinions will increase" to seek a change, the

His remarks were under-

stood by observers to indicate

that the lower house might be

dissolved in late January, Jiji

Mr. Kono bitterly criticised Prime Minister Morihiro

Hosokawa, who decided Fri-

day to postpone compiling the

government's new year budget

LDP leader said.

until-early 1994.

Yohei Kono, president of

quoted as saying Saturday.

As in the past, the release was overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross with logistic support from UNPROFOR's Spanish

Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban said Saturday he expected the world to press the Muslim-led army into freeing Croat war prisoners after his forces released more than

1,000 Muslims unilaterally this

"It will be clear now who is who in Bosnia, in moral and every other respect," Mr. Boban told Croatian state radio. "I am sure the Muslims will react positively to our deci-

He said he was sure the international community would now lean on the mostly Muslim Bosnian army to free detained Croats as a reciprocal

Croatian Radio reported Friday night that the Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) had released all remaining Muslim prisoners of war and closed detention centres in HVO-held southwest Bosnia.

In Belgrade, political sources said Serbia's ruling Socialist Party could be denied a majority in Sunday's elections and may form a govern-ment coalition with the moder-

tical decisions. It will certainly

give a minus effect on the

economy and invite interna-

tional criticism," the LDP

ernment completes drafting a

new year budget in December.

and parliament approves bills on the budget before the new

Mr. Kono said emergency

He said the Hosokawa

*He must make efforts not

measures were needed now to

cope with the "serious" econo-

cabinet could collapse after

only for political reform but

also for others. It will become

difficult for Hosokawa to stay

political reform bills through

parliament, Mr. Hosokawa ex-

tended the extraordinary par-

liament session, due to end Wednesday, by 45 days, to

that he would resign as prime

Mr. Hosokawa has indicated

In an apparent effort to pass

in power." Mr. Kono said.

fiscal year starts in April.

mic slump in Japan.

general elections.

Normally the Japanese gov-

president said.

Japanese elections 'could be held in January'

Opinion polls have been banned during the election campaign but newspapers said surveys showed the Socialists, led by President Slobodan Milosevic, would have the largest number of seats.

According to the forecast, the DEPOS opposition group would replace the strongly nationalist Radical Party, a former Milosevic ally, as the second largest faction in partia-

Even without a working majority of his own, the president appeared certain to retain his grip on power despite growing unpopularity over the economic catastrophe that has overtaken the economy under international sanctions.

"Milosevic doesn't go into elections in order to lose," a political source said Saturday.

The general election, the second in Serbia in a year, is being held at a crucial juncture in international negotiations to end the civil war between Mus-lims, Serbs and Croats in neighbouring Bosnia.

U.N. and European Community envoys met Mr. Milosevic and Croatian government representatives near Belgrade Friday to discuss plans to partition Bosnia into three ethnic states.

There is speculation in the

the political reform bills before

The bills are now before the

upper house after being

approved by the lower

The LDP lost its 38-year grip

on Japanese politics after suf-fering a setback in general

elections held in July for the

powerful lower house. Following the LDP's elec-

tion defeat, seven parties

formed a coalition cabinet, led

by Mr. Hosokawa, in August.

plans to tour Europe in mid-

January, due to his tight sche-

dule in parliament, the Japan

Broadcasting Corp. reported

Mr. Hosokawa had been

considering meeting French President Francois Mitterrand.

German Chancellor Helmut

Kohl, Italian Prime Minister

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi during a

tour of unspecified European

nations, the national network

He had hoped to meet these

leaders ahead of the annual

Mr. Hosokawa has dropped

the end of this year.

Serbian capital that Mr. Milosevic has convinced Bosnian Serbs to cede extra territory to the proposed Muslim state in order to coax the U.N. into easing its oil trade sanctions against Serbia.

The warring sides will meet the international negotiators in Geneva Tuesday and EC foreign ministers in Brussels the following day.

Mr. Milosevic, casting himself in the guise of peacemaker, has worked hard to shed his international image as the architect of the territorial wars fought by Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia since their independence from former Yugoslavia.

The conflicts have brought close his ambition to unite all Serbs in a greater Serbia, a goal underwritten by all the main parties contesting the

But they have been pursued at the cost of retaliatory U.N. sanctions that have destroyed Serbia's economy in a whirl-wind of hyperinflation, industrial collapse and crime.

Getting the sanctions eased will be the first priority of Milosevic's next government though many fear he could be forced to resort a state of emergency within weeks as the economy continues to deterio-

countries summit to be held in

Napoli in July, said the net-

It added that Mr. Hosokawa

will thus stay out of the di-plomatic limelight until a meet-

ing he hoped to have with U.S.

President Bill Clinton in mid-

General Boutros Ghali arrived

here Saturday for a five-day

official visit to Japan on his

The U.N. chief is to meet

Mr. Hosokawa and Foreign

Minister Tsutomu Hata Mon-

Their talks are expected to

centre on a greater U.N. role,

U.N. peacekeeping activities

in the former Yugoslavia and

North Korea's suspected nuc-

lear development, government

also to meet Japan's Emperor

Akihito and ruling and opposi-

tion party leaders, officials

will leave Japan Wednesday

The U.N. secretary-general

While in Tokyo, Dr. Ghali is

way to South Korea.

day, officials said.

sources said.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary

work.



Members of Taiwan's opposition party Saturday struggle with riot police in Taipei in an attempt to force themselves into a meeting hall where the China — Taiwan talks are held

Taiwan, China start talks amid protest

Previous talks were held in Singapore and China earlier

Chinese negotiators, meeting in Taiwan for the first time ever, began a six-day round of talks Saturday as not police scuffled with screaming protesters in the street outside.

Negotiators wrangled over provisions of a pact for the repatriation of Chinese asylum-seekers who have hijacked nine airliners to Taipei since April this year. The hijackings have become a major irritant in relations.

Taiper's nationalist govern-ment, which lost the Chinese civil war in 1949, has said it is willing to send back the hijack-ers but has insisted they first be tried in Taiwan and that China promise not to try them a second time.

China has refused to accept the conditions, accusing Taiwan of indirectly encouraging the hijackings by refusing to send back suspects immediately and unconditionally.

this year. But the Taipei talks brought the first visit of a Chinese negotiating team to Taiwan, marking a gradual thawing in relations since the More than 200 members of

the main opposition democratic Progressive Party, which wants Taiwan to abandon its official goal of reunification with China, scuffled with clubwielding riot police outside the talks in a Taipei office

The demonstrators, carrying banners reading "don't sell out Taiwan", said they feared their government could use the talks to move towards reunification without consulting the island's 21 million people.

No firm agreements were reached on the first day of the talks, which will also discuss fishing disputes and ways to

speed up repatriation of 2,482 illegal Chinese immigrants from Taiwan.

The two sides remained far apart on issues such as whether all hijackers should be sent back without exception and the time period which could elapse between any future hijackings and the repatriation of sus-

Hsu Hwei-Yow, the chief Taiwanese negotiator, said Taiwan wanted to reserve the right not to repatriate some hijackers if they had valid political or religious motives.

He also said Taiwan could not accept a 15-day time limit for repatriation as demanded

Chinese negotiator Sun Yafu told a news conference: "Hijacking is a serious criminal offence. Hijackers should be dealt with according to their behaviour not according to their motives."

Heavy fighting reported in Angola

LUANDA (R) — Angola's government Saturday reported heavy fighting with UNITA rebels north of the capital Luanda and in other parts of the country as peace talks remained stalled.

were intense clashes some 100 kilometres northéast of Luanda near the strategically located town of Canacassala, which had been captured by UNITA earlier in the week.

The sources also reported fighting in the town of Mona Quimbundo in eastern Luanda provincial capitals of Cuito and Menongue, in the centre and No more details were immediately available. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Diplomats in Luanda said month-long peace talks with UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) in the Zambian capital Lusaka were stalled and were-entitlely to produce any agreement before Christmas.

Sul Province and rebel troop Military sources said there

Pakistani court charges Bhutto's brother KARACHI, Pakistan (R) - A imum penalty of death and Murtaza Bhutto, the iailed brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, with insurgency

and attempting to topple the

government by force.
"The prosecution has enough evidence to establish the involvement of the accused in the case," said the judge at the special court for speedy trials in the southern city of

Karachi. The court brought four charges against Murtaza Bhutto, younger brother of the prime minister, accusing him of insurgency, activities to destabilise by force the government of Pakistan, spreading hatred and rebellion against the state and provoking anti-

state activities. Murtaza and 14 co-accused pleaded not guilty to the charges, which carry a max- Jan. 2.

the hijacking of an airliner to Kabul and Damascus in 1981 in which one man was killed.

The 39-year-old Murtaza was arrested on Nov. 3 on his return from Syria after 16 years of self-imposed exile and has been held without bail in a Karachi jail awaiting formal charges.

He had not returned to Pakistan since his father, former Prime Minister Zulfigar Ali Bhutto, was toppled in a military coup in 1977.

He has been accused of masterminding an underground group, Al-Zulfiqar, set up af-ter his father was hanged in 1979. The group has been blamed for bombings in several

Pakistani cities. The judge set the trial for

Murtaza's return has prospecial court Saturday charged which include involvement in voked an embarrassing rift threatens to split the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The prime minister ousted

her mother, Nusrat Bhutto, as PPP chairwoman this month because of Nusrat's support to Murtaza in last October's elec-

"I have my differences," Nusrat Bhutto told reporters at the court when asked if a brief meeting with her daughter at a function Friday marked the mending of fences with Benazir.

"I am still the chairwoman of the party and will continue to act as such," Nusrat said. But Murtaza ruled out any

quick reconciliation after Fri-day's meeting. "It was only an informal chat," he said. "What we need is negotiations on the issue of party leadership."

N. Korea will accept U.S. nuclear proposal with few reservations—report

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Monday will respond positively but with a "few reservations" to a counter offer by Washington on inspection of its nuclear facilities, a Seoul daily said Saturday.

The Kyunghyang Daily, in a front page story, quoted an unnamed diplomatic source in Washington as saying that "with very few reservations, North Korea will convey its acceptance of the U.S. proposal.

The message will be conveyed during an unofficial working-level contact Monday in New York, the daily said, without detailing the reserva-tions. But it linked the reported new flexibility on the nuclear issue to recent policy changes in Pyongyang.

A meeting of the North's Supreme People's Assembly on Dec. 9 put priority on trade, in a move seen by analysts here as indicating a slight shift towards openness by the hitherto closed and rigidly self-reliant Stalinist society.

Unconfirmed reports had said Washington, at the last working-level contact between the two on Dec. 10, offered to halt annual joint South Korean

U.S. military Team Spirit exercises the moment an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team arrived in Pyon-

The offer was conditional on

the North agreeing to IAEA

inspection of all seven of its nuclear facilities and a promise to reopen talks with the South and exchange special envoys. One week earlier, on Dec. 3, North Korea had said it would accept inspection of five of its seven nuclear facilities, but not a nuclear reactor and a laboratory at Yongbyon, the two most suspect facilities.

The Kyunghyang report came after a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman charged Friday that Washington was putting "artificial obstacles" in the way of bilateral talks, and that it would never yield to U.S. pressure over its alleged programme to

produce a nuclear weapon. "It entirely depends on the U.S. attitude whether the third round of talks are held and the nuclear problem is solved," Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) quoted the spokesman as saying.

In the Dec. 10 meeting. Washington had insisted on a return to dialogue between the

two Koreas as a precondition for the third round, KCNA said.

"We cannot but be surprised at the fact that the United States is laying artificial obsta-cles again, by connecting the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South," the spokesman said. "If the United States con-

tinues to resort to pressure and delaying tactics without showing concern with the progress of the dialogue, it is hard to expect an agreement," he said, adding that "we showed the utmost lemence we could offer 'at the present stage,"

The agency also quoted the official daily Rodong Simmun as warning that North Korea was "resolved and fully prepared" to meet the worst situation, such as sanctions and

The United States has threatened to seek U.N. sanctions against North Korea if the dialogue fails to resolve the nuclear dispute, and possible cooperation with Pyongyang if it is resolved peacefully.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali is expected in Pyongyang on Dec. 24, the first ever visit to North Korea by a U.N. chief.

Becker ties the knot

LEIMEN, Germany (AFP) — Three-times Wimbledon tennis champion Boris Becker married 26-year-old model Barbara Feltus here Friday. The news ends months of speculation on their possible tying of the knot. Feltus is expecting, their first baby. During the marriage ceremony, about 300 people waited outside Leimen Town Hall, near Heidelberg in south west Germany, despite the heavy rain.

Charlie Chaplin hat, stick sold at auction

LONDON (AFP) — A hat and walking stick belonging to late. actor Charlie Chaplin were sold at auction here for £55,000 (\$83,000). the hat and stick, the trade-marks of the silent movie comedian, were sold by a Danish businessman to an. anonymous buyer. Charlie Chaplin died in 1977.

U.K. clamps down on drunk-driving

LONDON (R) — Two British

drunk-drive offenders, whose recklessness led to the death of their passengers, had their original sentences increased Friday as Britain clamped down. on drunk-driving. In what was seen as a test case. Peter Shepherd, 29, had his original. sentence of a fine and two-year driving ban increased to three months in prison, and Robert Wernet, 27, had his jail sent-enced doubled to 18 months. Lord Chief Justice Taylur, Britain's senior judge who handed down the new sentences, said that motorists who kill people in the worst drink-driving cases should face jail sentences near the maximum of 10 years. Shepherd and Wernet escaped the stiffer jail terms because they committed the offences before the maximum sentence was doubled to 10 years in August this year. But relatives' of drunk-drive victims and anti' drunk-driving campaigners were unimpressed by the new sentences. "It's almost a green light for drunken drivers to go on killing people with the law hardly taking any notice of them," said John Knight, of the Campaign Against Drinking and Driving.

Don't give me a home with a buffalo aroma

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DURHAM, New Hampshire (R) — Hamburgers may be the all-American meal, but residents of a New Hampshire town are turning up their noses at buffalo burgers, blocking plans to open restaurant in their neighbourhood. The novel burgers are the brain-child of David Langley, who runs a buffalo farm in the town and plans to open a restaurant serving buffalo meat as an alternative to beef. But the plan ran into opposition when five of Mr. Langley's neighbours filed suit against the town to block it, charging that the smell of sizzling buffalo burgers would be offensive in a residential zone.

But where do you put the presents?

LONDON (R) — A leading British gallery whose previous exhibits include a file of bricks and a roomful of rice has revived a debate about modern art by giving pride of place to an upside-down Christmas tree. The Tate Gallery in London marked the festive season by commissioning a 22-foot (6.7-metre) fir tree from Iranian artist Shirazeh Houshiary. It hangs upside downs from the. lobby ceiling with its tip touching the floor. The roots, covered in gold leaf, crown the otherwise unadorned tree. A gallery statement Friday called it "a tree floating in air with the roots free from their earthly constraints."

Funny, but ! don't recall him being that bald

NEW YORK (R) — suspicious-looking U.S. dollar bills, some of which feature an excessively bald George... Washington, aren't counterfeit just new, federal officials say. For weeks sceptical merchants have been asking the U.S. Secret Service about bills that differ in subtle ways from old ones — with a slightly balder George Washington or a white dot under the eye of the country's first president. Small numbers on the front of the bill have been removed, ... and other numbers on the backs have been moved slightly. The changes were made in June 1992 when the government introduced a new press that triples the output of bills.

"It's the worst of recent poli- parliament's final approval of group-of-seven industrial for South Korea. **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Jan. 29.

IRA debates peace plan, truce BELFAST (R) — Dozens of IRA units met in secret all over Ireland Saturday divided over whether to heed an Anglo-Irish appeal to lay down their arms in return for a voice in political peace talks. But Republican sources said the IRA activists were likely to agree on their customary Christmas ceasefire while they argued about ending a 25-year war against British rule. "A Christmas truce is likely but the idea of a complete end will take much longer to debate. The Christmas ceasefire could be announced on Dec. 24," a source close to the IRA said. The sources said the meetings involved grassroots activists who would pass on their decisions to the IRA's governing army council, which could meet overtheenext four weeks to give its verdict on the proposals. The meetings are

can Army (IRA) activists are studying a statement by Britain and Ireland last Wednesday billed an historic opportunity to end one of the world's longest civil wars. Kiev sticks to military demands

MOSCOW (AFP) - Ukraine kept up demands for security guarantees and compensation over its nuclear arsenal in talks with a U.S.-Russian delegation hoping to resolve a standoff over the republic's strategic missiles, news agencies reported Saturday. The Interfax News Agency said that Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valeri Shmarov and Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko had insisted that the security guarantees must be met by Moscow and Washington before it would agree to dismantle the 46 long-range SS-24 missiles on Ukrainian territory. The ministers also reiterated demands for financial compensation. The three sides agreed to continue their discussions, but did not announce a new date, according to Interfax. The delegation, led by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgi Mamedov, U.S. special envoy Strobe Talbott and U.S. Under-Secretary for Defence William Perry, was dispatched Thursday to Kiev as U.S. Vice President Al Gore said here that Washington and Russia shared "a strong feeling that this matter needs to be resolved."

being held on both sides of a border the IRA wants to

eliminate to unite the British-ruled and Protestant dominated

province with the Catholic Irish Republic. The Irish Republi-

U.S. gunman kills 2, then himself

HUGO, Oklahoma (AFP) - A gunman opened fire in the parking lot of a shopping centre, killing a married couple before turning the gun and taking his own life, police said. Three others were wounded in the shooting spree outside a Wal-Mart store near Hugo, in southeast Oklahoma. The gunman was identified as David Rlinn. Using a semi-automatic rifle, he killed luke Sheehan, 52, and his wife Mary Sheehan, then drove a short distance and committed suicide in his truck, said the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Authorities said a motive for the shooting had not been established. backing away from an earlier theory that the gunman knew the couple. One person was wounded by a bullet and two others were injured by flying glass. Assistant District Attorney Larry Grant said Mr. Flinn went to the local sheriff's office early Friday with a complaint about a dog and became impatient, saying. "I'll prosecute this myself." The official said Mr. Flinn purchased the rifle earlier in the day at a pawnshop, lying on the application about his criminal record. He had been convicted on assault and property crimes charges in California.

Italian mafia plotted to kill magistrate

ROME (R) - Investigators have discovered a plot to kill Sicily's chief anti-matia magistrate, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) said. The news came as anti-Mafia authorities claimed a major victory against organised crime in eastern Sicily, rounding up some 93 people in a sweep involving 1,000 police and troops. ANSA said news of the suspected plot to kill Palermo Chief Prosecutor Giancarlo Caselli was contained in a parliamentary report on the mafia. A section of the parliamentary report said investigators had received information about plans for a "grave attack" against Mr. Caselli using "an electronic system," the agency said. This was apparently a reference to a remote-control bomb. The mafia had apparently intended to kill Mr. Caselli during a visit to northern Italy. There were no further details.

Toll in Argentine unrest rises to 9

SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO, Argentina (AFP) - Army troops patrolled the streets here in the wake of riots that the hospital said left nine people dead and more than 100 injured. Meanwhile a special government envoy sent to the impoverished region arrived and promised government workers would be paid back wages. The death toll rose to nine in 36 hours of rioring by the workers in the northwestern provincial capital, said Luis Muratore Montefinos, at the Santiago Del Estero Regional Hospital. On Thursday, thousands of demonstrators, manay of them government employees who have gone unpaid for three months, took over government headquarters in this northwestern provincial capital, setting fire to furniture and buildings and stoning police. Other public buildings and private homes were looted and burned during the unrest in this city of 300,000 people. Most victims died of gunshot or knife wounds or injuries due to beatings, Muratore Montefinos said, warning that the death toll could rise because many of the wounded were seriously injured.

Left rallies round Mitterrand

PARIS (R) — Socialists rallied behind President François Mitterrand Saturday in a row over funding of private schools, accusing France's centre-right government of trying to shatter the delicate sharing of power known as "cohabitation." The Socialist president, in his first serious clash with the conservative government. Friday attacked it for rushing a law through parliament removing limits on state aid to mainly Catholic private schools. Sceating an opportunity to rally the left, which has been in disarray since an election defeat last March, Socialist chiefs followed Mr. Mitterrand's lead Saturday in promoting secular, public education. "We can only feel wounded at the way... the government has due up the hatchet, destroying an old consensus (on education)," Socialist former Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, a close friend of Mr. Mitterrand, told Reuters. "This decision... goes beyond the issue of private schooling and signals a return to the spirit of Vichy in our institutions," he said, referring to the collaborationist government that ruled over the unoccupayed part of France in 1940-44. "All those who believe in the virtues of the republic must mobilise themselves," Mr. Dumas said. Both Mr. Dumas and Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard took part in demonstrastions against the new law staged by striking teachers and schoolchildren throughout France Friday.

Olympic skiing champion ends World Cup jinx | Austrian

VAL GARDENA, Italy (R) — Austrian Olympic Champion Patrick Ortlieb ended a frustrating six-year wait when he won a downhill Saturday, his first victory on Alpine skiing's World Cup circuit.

It was sweet revenge for the burly man from the mountain resort of Lech, set for success in a downhill here Friday until the course conditions eased and allowed a series of higher starters to push him down to sixth.

'I'm not going to start celebrating until number 75 (Alphonse Gomis of enegal) has skied," a wary Ortlieb told reporters at the finish line after clocking a time of two minutes 04.14 seconds on the Sas-

French racer Jean-Luc Cretier, with start number 37, gave the Olympic downhill champion a scare but he had to settle for third place in 2:04.66, his best ever result.

Veteran Swiss downhiller Daniel Mahrer finished second in 2:04.55.

Little-known Markus Foser of Liechtenstein, who caused a sensation when winning from start number 66 Friday, could

skied well enough to clock 2:05.19.

"I knew it was only a matter of time before I won a world cup race and it's nice to succeed on such a prestigious course as this," Ortlieb said.

"I was pleased with how I skied on Friday and I knew that I only lost then because the weather conditions changed," added the Austrian, second here in 1988 and third last year.

"It was tough on the nerves at the finishing line but I relaxed a little after (Marc) Girardelli had said the 26-yearraced, old, in his sixth season on the circuit.

Five times World Cup winner Girardelli finished 13th, over a second slower than Ortlieb after taking third place behind unknowns foser and Austrian Werner Franz Friday. 'The race today was

much fairer and faster," added Ortlieb whose winning time was almost five seconds quicker than that of Foser.

Foser's unlikely win had been put down to a drop in the wind and the effects of the sun on the 3,446 metre piste. But the Liechten-

stein man's 12th place Saturday, from start number seven, proved it had not been a complete fluke. Franz finished down in 23rd.

'Ortlieb's victory means the \$1 million booty offered to the man winning the five classic downhills in Val D'Isere, Val Gardena, Kitzbuehel, Wengen and Garmisch - will go unclaimed this season.

Friday's race here replaced one cancelled in Val D'Isere last weekend and thus counted as one of the Grand Slam five.

The 31-year-old Mahrer was happy with his second

"A top three finish was my aim for December. I'm pleased because I never do especially well on this hill,"

The result in part compensated for the poor form of World Cup downhill champion Franz Heinzer, who could manage only 27th spot after his disastrous 58th Friday. Heinzer's showing can in part be blamed on a niggling thigh strain.

"My Swiss team mates will be back on song for the downhills in January,' Mahrer promised.

Cretier was Saturday's surprise package, the double French downhill champion finally taking a place on a World Cup podium.

"This is a dream for me. Producing a result like this takes such a weight off my shoulders," he said. "I think we can expect a very strong showing from the French men this season."

Canadian Rob Boyd repeated Friday's fourth place ahead of Italians Kristian Ghedina and Pietro Vitalini.

Norwegian all-rounder Kjetil-Andre Aamodt finished eighth to stretch his lead over Austrian Guenther Mader in the World Cup standings to 45 points. Aamodt has 389 points while Mader, 29th on Saturday, has 344.

The scene now switches to the nearby Dolomite Resort of Alta Badia Sunday for a giant slalom in which Italian hero Alberto Tomba attempts to mark his 27th birthday with a

A slalom follows Monday in Madonna Di Campiglio while the speed merchants return to action next Wednesday with a super-G in Ortlieb's home town of

skier wins women's downhill

ST ANTON, Austria (R) ---Austria's Anja Haas delighted home crowds with the third World Cup downhill victory of her career Saturday, but it was two outsiders who stolel the

Haas, 22, finished the twoleg race on the shortened Kandahar Course in an unofficial time of two minutes 19.25

But 17-year-old team mate Renate Goetschl swept from a starting position of 62 to take fifth place in the first leg and then leaped into second overall in 2:19.35. It was Goetschi's first World Cup downhill race, though she won a slalom in Lillehammer.

Japan's Emi Kawabata, another virtual unknown. finished third in 2:19.41. The race was run in two legs, because the course had to be

shortened after heavy snowfalls put the top of the piste out of action. The downhill counts towards

combined points with a slalom to be raced Sunday and organisers felt running the downhill over one leg on a truncated course would have favoured slalom specialists too much.

In the first leg the course appeared to get faster as the race went on, favouring later starters such as Goetschl and Kawabata, who started 39th. Only the top 30 went on to the second leg.

Canada's Kate Pace, winner of the World Championship downhill in Morioka, Japan. and starting 13th, finished fourth in 2:19.52, while Russia's Varvara Zelenskaya. leader after the first leg. finished a disappointing sixth.

The first leg of the race measured 2,000 metres with a vertical drop of 610 metres, the second was 1,820 metres long. with a vertical drop of 510 metres.

mistakes in the upper part of the course in the first leg, but the second run was just per-

- Could be Furnished

(115 m2 and 160 m2)

-Consists of :

Pele could be banned from World Cup draw

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Pele. soccer's greatest star, may be banned from Sunday's World Cup draw because of a legal dispute with the son-in-law of . the president of soccer's world governing body. FIFA President Joao Have-

lange refused to say whether Pele, the most recognisable athlete in the soccer world. would be allowed to participate in Sunday's World Cup-draw. Despite repeated questions during a news conference Friday, Havelange refused to even utter Pele's name.

"Persons who participate are unimportant to FIFA," said Havelange, who has headed the governing body since 1974. The presence or absence of one person changes it (the draw) in absolutely no way. Pele has been sued by Ricar-

do Teixeira, president of the. Confederation of Brazilian Football, in a dispute over the awarding of television rights to games in Brazil. Pele has charged Teixeira with corrupt practices, claiming his group wasn't awarded television rights because it would'nt pay a

attempting to change Have-

"He has not definitely said said Joseph Blatter. FIFA's general secretary, who runs the Zurich-based organisation on a daily basis.

Guido Tognoni. FIFA's chief spokesman, said "some say the door is open: others say it's closed."

"It's an internal matter in the Brazilian Confederation." Tognoni said. "Dr. Havelange doesn't feel comfortable. But we have to respect the wishes of the president."

Alan Rothenberg, president of the U.S. Soccer Federation and chairman of the World Cup USA 1994 Organising Committee. appeared angry and agitated when told of Havelange's remarks.

"The notion that you could have a draw in any country in the world without Pele is unthinkable." said Rothenberg. who arrived at the Las Vegas Convention Centre minutes after Havelange's news conference. "I find it astounding."

Pele, 54, was part of Brazi-

the governing body were titles in 1954, 1962 and 1970. He popularised soccer in the late 1970s when he finished his career with the New York Cos- ." mos of the North American Soccer League and is the only soccer player known to many Americans.

"FIFA is an institution, and the World Cup belongs to it. .. and the final draw belong to. FIFA." Havelange said. "There is no obligation in this -:matter. It is reserved to ... FIFA.

Asked if U.S. organisers would be disappointed if Pele didn't appear onstage for Sunday's draw, which has an estimated worldwide audience of 500 million, Havelange said: "Mr. Rothenberg would be very disappointed if we withdrew the World Cup.

Pele was en route to Las Vegas from New York Friday and couldn't be contacted immediately.

"He's the World Cup spokesman for Mastercard. said Marianne Fulgenzi of Mastercard International. World Cup sponsor. "He plans on being here. It's an integral FIFA officials said some in lian teams that won World Cup part of our programme."

Witt on verge of completing a successful comeback

HERNE, Germany (AP) -The easy part was easier than expected, and it gave Katarina Witt a much needed confidence boost before the difficult portion of her Olympic comeback bid.

Witt, competing for the first time since 1988, trailed second going into the decisive free programme portion of the German National Figure Skating Championship.

The free programme counts for two-thirds of the overall mark and Witt will need an error-free performance to finish among the top three.

Such a finish will take her to the European Championship in January in Copenhagen. where only the two top Germans will secure berths at the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway in February.

"This second place gives me confidence, I am very happy mann and Simone Lang, who with my first competition after both finished behind her.

nearly six years" a beaming Witt said after the day's session. "I am eager for the Olympics.

"You really start from zero in the free programme, but I am really encouraged by my first competition," Witt said. Witt, skating in front of

judges for the first time in nearly six years, made a clean presentation of her "Robin Hood" short programme. A double axel came off slightly shaky but otherwise it was a confident performance.

Her routine began with Witt firing a mock arrow in the direction of the nine judges. nad they responded by giving her high marks, including a 5.9 for artistic impression. just under the maximum 6.

Witt profited from mistakes made by some of her closest rivals, including Marina Kiel-

Leading after the first day. as expected, was Tanja Szewczenko, the 16-year-old upcoming star whose short program-

jumping combinations. Szewczenko, although nursing a slight strain in her left ankle, said she would try six triple jumps in her free programme Saturday.

me included more difficult

tice and I am going to risk everything." said the German. The draw for the free programme gave Witt the right to

start first among the last group of skaters, followed immediately by Szewczenko. "It's a good draw. I like

Olympic champion in 1984 Sarajevo and in 1988 in Calgary, Witt has picked Pete Seeger's anit-war song Where tomorrow."

Have All The Flowers Gone

for her free programme: The theme was picked in part to send a message about the suffering of war-battered Sarajevo, where she won her first Olympic title.

birthday - Witt fell on her

Critics called the presentation a flop and few experts expected Witt to be able to challenge with only four uncomplicated triple jumps in her programme.

Frankfrut, but I've put that behind me," Witt said.

"This was a great race for me," Haas said. "I made a few - - Fridi

Office

Japan dismisses S. Korean challenge to host 2002 soccer World Cup

LAS VEGAS (R) — South Korea's challenge to stage the 2002 soccer World Cup was dismissed Friday by the general secretary of Japan's World Cup Bidding Committee. Tadao Murata.

Murata, who was in the casino city for Sunday's 1994 World Cup finals draw, told Reuters in an interview: "We don't care who else is interested in staging the 2002

"If South Korea now wants to come in as a rival because they have qualified for the World Cup next year and we have not, that is up to them. "We are still confident we

have a very good chance."

Murata added: "We want to bring the World Cup to Japan for Asia. We want to prove that an Asian country can stage soccer's most glamorous and popular tournament.

"We have the communications, hotels, sponsor support and stadiums and at this early stage we have virtually fulfilled all FIFA's requirements."

Japan had hoped to qualify for next year's World Cup to boost their bid for the 2002 tournament but an equalising goal by Iraq in the dying seconds of their final qualifying match allowed South Korea to squeeze through along with group leaders Saudi Arabia.

That result gave South Korea the impetus to press home their claims to stage the tournament.

Chung Mong-Joon, president of the South Korea Football Association said then: We will tell people we have qualified for the World Cup three times consecutively and four times in all. Japan have never been there."

Murata said Japan were bit- of Japan.

terely disappointed not to-. -: qualify. "It was a terrible moment. Such drama. I will never forget it. High hopes and thengung deep despair in just a matter of seconds. It took us a long time to digest it, but we have got over it.

FIFA, world soccer's gov- 121 erning body, has said it is most likely the 2002 World Cup will be held in Asia. The organisation's General Secretary Sepp Blatter said during a visit to Japan in October that Japan was halfway along the road to staging the finals and would be difficult to catch.

Murata says his country's professional 10-team J-League was going from strength to --strength with every match a. sell-out. He said soccer had ... now overtaken baseball as the . . . dominant sport in some parts -:

U.S. to launch professional soccer league in 1995

LAS VEGAS (R) — The Un- Americans set up a professionited States is preparing to al league. launch a 12-team professional league in April 1995, U.S. Soc- this league would succeed has announced. The league will run from April to September, cities and stadia have still

to be selected. Rothenberg, chief executive of the U.S. World Cup organisers, presented a business plan for the league to FIFA, soccer's world governing body, Friday and was given their sanction to go ahead.

FIFA stipulated when they awarded the United States the 1994 World Cup that the

NORTH

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No expert likes to make a blind guess when a two-way finesse exists, or rely on a suit breaking evenly. You try to find out as much as possi-

ble about the distribution of the un-

seen cards before committing yourself. Here's an example from a

major international invitational

pairs tournament in Holland of a disaster that could only befall an

South 2 NT

7 NT

The bidding:
West North East S
Pass 2 Pass 2
Pass 3 NT Pass 7
Pass Pass Pass Opening lead: Ten of 7
No expect bless to make

AKQ2 VAKQ2

C

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Rothenberg promised that cer President Alan Rothenberg where others had failed in North America.

He said they were close to

concluding the television con-tract which they believed was vital to a league's success. The league, known as Major League Soccer, will be run by a single entity which will own all

players and teams. Teams will be restricted to three foreign players each, although Rothenberg said he hoped that number might be increased for the first few sea-

At most tables in the event North-South located their 4-4 spade

fit, with the result that the final

ontract was seven spades. That the mai contract was seven spades. That trump split. When Tony Forrester and Andy Robson of Great Britain sat North and South, respectively,

they bounced into seven no trump on the auction shown, a far better

West led a heart. Declarer won in hand and cashed two high spaces, discovering that East hald four cards in the suit. Next, hearts were

cards in the suit. Next, hearts were cleared, declarer discarding a spade and a diamond and West a second diamond as East followed all the way. All indications were that West had started with five diamonds, giving East three. If declarer's cardreading were correct, that meant East had started with only two clubs

and West with four.

Robson decided to back his judgment to the hilt. If, indeed, West

held club length, the club jack was

more likely to be in that defender's hand, so South came to hand with

the king of diamonds and ran the

nine of clubs. Down one, just like everybody else!

GOREN BRIDGE

TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN BE DANGEROUS

Rothenberg, who will be involved in the financing and management of the new league, had his proposals accepted earlier this month by the U.S. Soccer Federation. Two other bids had been consi-

He said the league was back-ed by capital of \$100 million which would be used to improve stadia, speed the building of new ones, buy back American players' contracts from European clubs and provide competitive salaries.

Rothenberg said Major League Soccer had already had preliminary discussions with investors, potential sponsors and a major broadcaster. "I am confident we will con-

clude an excellent broadcasting contract early next year which will give exposure to this league and encourage major sponsors to become invovled. he said.

never been more right for a professional league to succeed. The level of participation in soccer in this country has been growing by leaps and bounds

sons to help boost its attrac-tiveness and ensure top-class and we have proved in organis-ing the World Cup that we can convert participants into spechave no doubt that a

league like this will be suc-

The 27 cities which bid to

Successful cities will have to help provide stadia and show there is strong local support by getting advance deposits for season tickets.

communities which show support for professional soccer. Rothenberg said.

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He offered to use the league for experimenting with changes to the game, including the use of larger goals.

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960.

Clint Eastwood — in IN THE LINE OF FIRE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Kim Basinger — in Two Hot To Handle

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[هلدًا صد الأصل

The first time she presented the routine — during a show in Frankfurt on Dec. 3. her 28th first triple jump, a relatively "It's been going well in pracsimple toeloop.

"I was very nervous in

going out first because I'm skating only for myself.' Witt "I can laugh again. I am glad about the way I withstood all the pressure," she said. "Now I have to concentrate on

Rothenberg was involved as a team owner in the failed North American Soccer League of the 1970s which attracted world stars such as Peie, Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff and Bobby

Moore. FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said his organisa-tion was optimistic about the future of soccer in the United

host World Cup games, plus an additional six, will be invited to bid for a team in January.

"We believe the time has

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presents a play entitled: Al Ilm Nuron A popule political comedy

Ticheta are sold all day

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Judge: Lawyer

can give police

Jackson evidence

LOS ANGELES (R) - A judge,

sued Jackson in civil court. The

superstar's sought to have a "gag

order" placed on Larry Feldman,

the boy's lawyer, to prevent him from speaking about the case. Superior Court Judge David Rothman ruled that while evi-

dence gathered by Mr. Feldman and provided to police and dis-

35-year-old entertainer has de-

nied the boy's charges. One of Jackson's lawyers said Friday that

the reclusive singer may break his silence next week.

VATICAN CITY (R) — The

Vatican Friday renewed its con-demnation of the use of birth

ploit women and tore families

volution, far from liberating hu-

vitae" encyclical. The document

on the Encyclical, which was re-leased in 1968 by Pope. Paul VI and contained the Roman Catho-

lic Church's strongest denuncia-

tion of contraception. "The wide-

spread use of contraception facili-

tates the exploitation of women

by men who are looking to satisfy

their sexual desires without mak-

ing any commitments," the new-

document said. It said families

were some of the biggest victims

of birth control as its broke down

bonds between husbands and

wives. "Experience has shown-

...that contraception has contri-

buted to the rise in divorces and

with just one parent," it said.

LONDON (R) — Do you fancy a pet on Prince Charles renouncing

his right to the British throne or.

his bachelor brother Prince Ed-ward marrying during 1994? Brit-

ish bookmakers William Hill will-

give you odds of 5-1 and 14-1.

book Friday on various events-

punters can have a flutter on for

the next year, they also quote

20-1 against Eurodisney in France

closing permanently, 50-1 against

Queen Elizabeth abdicating and

100-1 against Margaret Thatcher

being reappointed leader of Bri-

tain's ruling Conservative Party.

Rooney's novel

idea for a book

against respectively. Opening a

Place your

bets for 1994

apart. "The so-called sexual re-

Vatican says

birth control

exploits women

ruled Friday that the lawyer for a boy who claims he was sexually

molested by pop star Michael Jackson can continue supplying evidence to criminal investigators. The 13-year-old boy has

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey offers to revive pipeline idea

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Turkey is ready to revive a project to supply water to wealthy Gulf Arab states through a pipeline from two of its rivers. Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciler told a newspaper here Saturday, "It is clear the Middle East is undergoing dramatic developments towards peace." she told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Ittihad. "If regional states show interest. Turkey could revive the water peace pipeline." Turkey proposed the ambitious project six years ago to supply water from its twin rivers of Ceyhan and Seyhan to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states - Saudi Arabia. Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman. Qatar and the UAE. It paid around \$2 million for a feasibility study on the project, which it estimated to cost around \$21 billion at the time. It dubbed the project the Peace Pipeline as a symbol of what it called prosperity and cooperation among regional countries. But GCC states have turned down the roposal on the grounds its costs have increased to \$27 billion and it carries security risks.

Lebanon assures Turkey on Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (R) - Lebanon has told Turkey that Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Oculan is persona non grata in Lebanon and that it does not want guerrillas to use Lebanese territory to prepare for attacks in Turkey. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri gave the assurances on Friday during his visit to Turkey, which has been pressing Syria, Lebanon, Iran and the Kurds in northern Iraq to crack down on the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Lebanon has closed down PKK training camps in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon but the Ocalan, the PKK leader, does visit Lebanon occasionally and some Kurdish guerrillas remain in Beirut and in the Bekka Valley. Mr. Hariri, asked whether the Lebanese government would detain Mr. Ocalan if it caught him in Lebanon, told the Turkish newspaper hurriyet: "We will throw him out of

EC gives Syria development aid

DAMASCUS (R) - The European Community (EC) is looking for stronger economic and social links with Syria after it approved a financial protocol for the country totalling more than \$178 million, a statement released here Saturday said. The statement issued by the European Commission in Damascus said the financial protocol approved by the European Parliament on Wednesday to Syria amounting to 158 million European currency units (\$178 million) would finance development projects. The European Parliament unblocked the aid to Syria which had been held up because of concerns over human rights.

Militants kill police colonel in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Suspected Muslim militants on Saturday shot and killed a police colonel as he was leaving his house in northern Cairo, police said. Colonel Ahmad Shaalan, of the state security services, was attacked in the working-class Matar-iya neighbourhood as he climbed into his car heading for work. they said. He was wearing civilian clothes. The assailants, whose number was not specified, fled the scene and security officers launched a manhunt, they added. The shooting comes 48 hours after the hanging of three militants convicted of seeking to overthrow the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. Fundamentalist organisations have repeatedly threatened to avenge the executions. Col. Shaalan's death brings to 81 the number of policemen killed since March 1992 when extremists stepped up their anti-government campaign. More than twothirds of them were posted in southern Egypt.

Israeli undercover units strengthened

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The Israeli army has stepped up the activities of its undercover units responsible for tracking down wanted Palestinians, due to a rise in anti-Israeli attacks, a commander of one of the units said Saturday. "We have a bigger presence on the ground and our activities have been holstered. due to the growth in the activities of (extremists) who claim success in killing settlers." the commander told Israeli Radio. They are using increasingly sophisticated methods, and we are adapting to them, because our work against wanted armed Palestinians continues." The colonel, whose name was not given, was from a unit deployed in the occupied West Bank. He said there was no question of dismantling the special units. whose members are usually disguised as Palestinians, despite the autonomy accord signed Sept. 13 in Washington.

Christian, Jewish leaders to meet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Christian and Jewish leaders from 96 countries will meet at an inter-faith conference in Jerusalem next February 1, an organiser said on Saturday. "It is the first international meeting between the different Christian churches and the Jewish religion," Avraham Fried, the director of the Centre for Cultural and Social Studies in Jerusalem, told Reuters. Among those due to attend are Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger from the Vatican . Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan, Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Subbah and Isreal's chief rabbis.

Libya, Iran urge anti-West unity

CAIRO (AP) — Libya and Iran urged fellow Muslims to work together, strengthening their religion to meet the challenge of all Islam's common foe, the West, "The enemy wants to sow discord" among Muslims, Libyan Prime Minister Abu Zeid Omar Durdah said, "The Islamic countries should muster all their resources and show solidarity... to eliminate these problems." Libya Radio reported his comments Saturday in a broadcast monitored in London. It said visiting Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, joining Mr. Durda in the appeal after a meeting in Tripoli on Friday, offered greater Iranian cooperation with Islamic countries.

Iran says dozens of dissidents return

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Saturday that two dozen dissidents linked to a leading opposition group based in Iraq have given up the fight and returned to their homeland. The Islamic Republic News Agency, said the dissident, "member and supporters of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, had turned themselves in at Iranian embassies abroad. "expressing regret for their past wrongdoings." The state-run agency said they were flown Saturday to Tehran from the United Arab Emirtes and apparently tried to create the impression that the returnees would not be severely punished. There was no way of establishing the veracity of the report, munitored by the Associated Press in Nicosia, A Mujahedeen spokesman, Ali Safavi, called it "a sheer lie," had "a desperate reaction by the mullahs" to the organisation's

American aid worker maimed in Somalia

NAIROBI (AFP) - An American aid worker and several Somalis were seriously wounded when their vehicle hit a landmine near the southwestern Somali town of Luc, a relief official said Saturday. Ken Rutherford of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has had a leg amputated and doctors fear that he may lose the other one, an IRC official said. Mr. Rutherford, 28, was evacuated to the Kenvan capital Nairobi for the operation, and was to be flown to the United States for further treatment. The details of the incident, which occured on Thursday, were still unclear, IRC officials said. The condition of the Somalis was unknown. Several foreign aid workers have been shot dead and several others wounded since foreign troops landed in Mogadishu last December. Four U.S. soldiers were killed by a landmine blast in August.

Israel may accept peacekeepers in Gaza

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL has for the first time agreed to an international peace-keeping presence in the Gaza Strip, according to the draft proposal it submitted to the PLO last week in Cairo.

The Jerusalem Post has reviewed the 90-page document and found the following points: The proposal allows for up to 100 civilians who may not

possess weapons to comprise what the document terms a temporary, international pre-sence." The civilians can help

sad to hear

ending Iraq

prime minister said it was sad

to hear speculation about a possible lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. the Arab Times reported

"It is really sad to see some

of those who are deceived by (Iraqi President) Saddam

(Hussein) currently talking ab-

out removing the international

blockade on the Iraqi regime." Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al

Sabah was quoted as saying.
"One should not forget that

the current Iraqi regime is the

real reason for this economic

blockade which has brought

catastrophes to the Iraqi peo-

ple." he was quoted as saying. Sheikh Saad, who did not

identify who was talking about

lifting sanctions, was speaking

in an interview with the Saudi

newspaper Al Jazeera, the En-

glish-language newspaper said. Sheikh Saad reiterated a de-

mand that Iraq recognise the

newly-demarcated border and

the sovereignty of Kuwait. He

also repeated a long-standing

accusation that Iraq is detaining more than 600 Kuwaitis

and people of other nationali-ties captured during its 1990-91

Iraq, which occupied Kuwait

for seven months in 1990-91, still claims Kuwait as its 19th

province. Baghdad denies it

still holds anyone detained

Sheikh Saad said Iraq had consistently refused to comply

with U.N. resolutions requir-

ing it to sell \$1.6 billion worth

of oil under strict U.N. moni-

toring to pay for humanitarian

aid and compensation to war

Iraq has said oil sales under

these conditions would be

humiliating and a violation of

mally demand the removal of

the Saddam government but would like all major disputes

between the two countries re-

moved before sanctions are

The Al Jazeera report made

no mention of the start last

week of Baghdad's repatria-

tion of Iraqis from a border

strip the United Nations has

The Iraqi move, easing one

defined as Kuwaiti territory.

of many points of tension be-

tween Iraq and Kuwait, was

the latest in a string of positive

Iraqi gestures to the interna-

tional community in the past

Other gestures have in-cluded Baghdad's acceptance

of long-term monitoring of its

and releases of Western jail

would have to formally recog-

nice Kuwait and the demar-

cated border before Washing-

ton would even consider

agreeing to lift the empargo.

Western diplomats say Iraq

future weapons potential

inmates.

Kuwait say it does not for-

its sovereignty.

during the Gulf crisis.

occupation.

Kuwait's

Kuwait

talk of

curbs

Saturday.

Palestinian police.

The document lists what Palestinian organizations are acceptable and whose imprisoned members would be eligible for release. The proposal makes it

clear that when trouble erupts anywhere in the areas of Palestinian self-rule, the IDF, (Israeli military) would be responsible. This includes the possibility of war or infiltration of hostile forces in Gaza or

According to the document.

in such duties as assisting the "If there is a conflict between do when its forces are in pur-Israeli security authorities and any other authority, power or responsibility ... Israeli security authorities and responsibility shall prevail pending the resolution of this dispute and Israel may act to restore the situation of that prior to the

> Officials regard the most sensitive portion of the document as that dealing with extradition, something not dealt with in the declaration of prin-

'ARREST': Israeli soldiers 'arrest' a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Palestinian hardliners | PLO staff

not been able to seriously

undermine Palestinian parti-

cipation in the peace process. Since the Israel-PLO accord

was signed, the 10 groups have

sought to consolidate the

alliance. But their efforts were

hampered by calls from fun-

damentalist members to form a

new command to replace the

Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordan-

based spokesman for the fun-

damentalist Hamas movement,

told the Associated Press that

the new alliance was formed on

Thursday after a two-day

He said: "Our objective is to

consolidate Palestinian ranks

inside the occupied territories

and in the diaspora to support

the uprising and escalate resist-

ate goal is to wreck the Palesti-

nian autonomy plan," said Mr.

Ghosheh, without giving de-tails of the alliance's political

programme. Mr. Ghosheh said the

Damascus-based alliance will

also work towards rebuilding

Palestinian institutions "on

democratic bases and away

from the current single-handed

A Democratic Front leader

who attended the Damascus meeting said the leadership of

the new alliance will rotate

among the chiefs of the 10

Speaking on condition of

anonymity, he said the alliance

will meet again in Damascus

on Dec. 26 to finalise organisa-

In addition to Hamas, the 10

hardline factions include the

fundamentalist Islamic Jihad

and Hizbollah-Palestine as

well as the Marxist Popular

and Democratic fronts for the

liberation of Palestine, the

second and third largest fac-

tions of the PLO.

policy" of Mr. Arafat.

hardline factions.

tional details.

"But our main and immedi-

meeting in Damascus.

leadership of Mr. Arafat.

consolidate alliance

AMMAN — After months of

deliberations, hardline Palesti-

nian factions have formed an

alliance dedicated to wrecking

the Israel-PLO autonomy deal,

faction leaders said Saturday.

Palestinian Forces" will soon

set up a joint command to

direct the six-year-old Palesti-

nian uprising in the occupied

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The combined strength of

the 10 groups, which espouse

ideologies ranging from Marx-ism to Islamic fundamentalism,

could hamper Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO)

Chairman Yasser Arafat's

quest to take control of terri-

tories that will soon gain

It also will add to the chal-

implementing the already de-

layed Sept. 13 Israel-PLO

autonomy accord, which fore-

sees limited interim self-rule

for nearly two million Palesti-

nian residents of the West

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzha, Rabin failed

to agree on implementation of

the deal during talks in Cairo

on Dec. 12, one day before

Israel was to have begun a

partial pullout from the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank town

Prospects for another Ara-

fat-Rabin meeting remained unclear, and Palestinian oppo-

nents and Jewish settlers, who

also oppose the accord, have

stepped up violence in the

The 10 Palestinian hardline

groups variously advocate an

ndependent state in the West

Bank and Gaza, seized from Jordan and Egypt in 1967, and

he total destruction of Israel.

opposition front in September 1992 to challenge the PLO's

moderae strategy. But it has

The hardliners formed an

Bank and Gaza Strip.

of Jericho.

occupied lands.

Mr. Arafat faces in

autonomy from Israel.

They said the "Alliance of

By Jamai Halaby

Regarding what Israel can

suit of suspected terrorists, and have information that a wanted criminal has sought refuge in Gaza or Jericho, the document says when a Palestinian commits a "serious crime" against an Israeli, the army can demand the transfer or arrest of the Palestinian suspect. If the Palestinian police force fails to do that. Israeli authorities are

to do the job themselves. - The Israeli proposal outlines the Palestinian police force. It will consist of five branches: a civil police; a para-

demand pay

AMMAN (AP) - Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) em-

ployees staged a sit-in Saturday

at the PLO mission to demand payment of their salaries for

Protesters said they repre-

sented some members of the

Palestine Liberation Army sta-

tioned in Iraq and activists of

PLO Chairman Yasser Ara-

fat's Fateh faction in Jordan.

sat in front of the mission for

some of us for two years."

Several dozen Palestinians

the past six months.

military gendarmerie; internal security intelligence similar to the General Security Service; emergency services, and coastal police.

Palestinian and Israeli security forces will organise joint patrols in several areas of the Gaza Strip, according to the Israeli proposal. The document rules out any transfer of police authority.

A senior PLO source dismissed the Israeli document. saying "it's not worth the garbage can it should be thrown

and provided to police and district attorneys' investigator was potentially detrimental to Jackson's case it did not threaten a fair trial. Investigators from the Los Angeles Police Department and two district attorneys' offices are MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Three officials of Somali war-lord Mohammad Farah examining the boy's allegations to ! Aideed's faction have laundetermine if criminal charges ched a hunger-strike to protest should be brought against Jackthe "very harsh conditions" of their imprisonment by U.N. son. Investigators say they do not yet have enough evidence to for-mally charge the superstar. The forces in Somalia.

"We are held in very harsh

man beings...has turned many into slaves of promiscuity," it said in a document marking the 25th anniversary of the "humanae The organisation failed to explain how the men had managed to get the letter out of

The three being held are mad Hassan Awale.

about 30 minutes before dispersing peacefully. Some said they planned to stage a demonstration with slogans and banners on Sunday. Zakariya Al Habashneh, who is demanding backpay from October 1991 after work-

ing for Fateh in Lebanon, said: We have not received our salaries for many months: "The only think we get is promises, which are not enough to feed our families," tained unlawfully and unfairly

he said outside the PLO mis-"If we are not paid, then we will use every means to secure our rights," said Mr. Habashneh. He did not elaborate. A senior PLO official

Pakistani soldiers. speaking on condition of SNA officials said the hunanonymity, said the Amman mission did not have enough funds to meet the demands of forces set them free.

The only thing we could do is to send their demands to the PLO," said the official. PLO finances are controlled

directly by Mr. Arafat, who is based in Tunis.

the protesters.

Many Gulf countries stopped their financial aid to the PLO when Arafat supported Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. They also froze several hundred million dollars in "liberation" tax collected from Palestinian expatriates.

The dried up donations have forced the PLO in 1991 to slash its \$300 million annual budget by 70 per cent.

in jail

Saturday, the three officials of

September.

ment in strict incommunicado tremely scorching sun on an

was written by clerics and lay members of a Vatican Congress their place of detention.

by sheer force," they said.

ger strike began on Thursday and would continue until U.S.

U.N. peacekeepers detained the three men during an unsuccessful campaign to capture and try Gen. Aideed for planning a massacre of Pakistani

The hunt was called off a battle in which Gen. Aideed's militia killed 18 U.S. ser-

It was not possible to authenticate the letter and the

held near the southern port city of Kismayu.

Aideed lieutenants said to fast

In a letter released late

the Somali National Alliance (SNA) said they had been 'fasting from food or drink" because of the conditions in which they have been held. since their arrests in

conditions of solitary confineand blindfolded, with bad food and a lack of body washing and control, saying it encouraged promiscuity, enabled men to exlaundering water, under exisland off the southern coast of Somalia," the three men said in the letter, released by the

Osman Otto, a wealthy businessman considered to be the financier of the SNA, Omer Salad Elmi and Moham-"Our conditions of health

vere already bad and we don't know how our health and even lives will be after fasting," the letter said. The date of when they began the hunger-strike was crossed out and illegible. "We appeal to the Somali

people, world leaders and peoples, and human rights groups to look into our case and secure our release and those of the number of abandoned other Somali captives as well. spouses and children who are left "We were arrested and de-

Last month the U.N. released around 30 supporters of General Aideed and suspended a manhunt for the warlord, wanted in connection with an attack that killed 24

American troops serving as troops in June.

vicemen.

SNA did not explain how they wrote it and signed it under the conditions it described. The men are believed to be

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor 1.
Mickey Rooney will make his

debut as a novelist next spring in a unique venture with a New York book publishing company. In an interview Friday, Rooney said he had signed a contract with Carol Books under which he will receive no advances against royalties but will receive half the pro-fits from the book. "To my knowledge, no author has ever come to this type of arrangement with a publisher," Rooney said. Steven Schragis, the publisher, said the idea of an equal partnership between a publisher and an author was a unique one. "We are a midsize company, and it is not easy company, and it is not easy competing against the giant publishing conglomerates. This is a way for a midsize publisher to publish in the big leagues," Mr. Paris Schragis said. "A celebrity name is a big plus when it comes to publishing. Up to now the only way to get a celebrity author best way to get a celebrity author has been to pay big money up front The idea of an equal partnership never got broached before," he added. Rooney said under the agreement he would have equal control of the book cover, how the book will be edited and how it. will be publicised and sold, "It South Lebanon port of Sidon also eliminates a lot of middle men such as literary agents, which I happen to believe can be more of a hindrance than a help, said Rooney, whose 1965 autobiogra-phy, I.E., was a bestseller. He said his debut novel, Search For Sonny Skies, would be loosely based on the child stars he knew in Hollywood when he himself

was a child prodigy.

with Syria fate of missing Israelis **U.S.** senators discuss

BEIRUT (AP) — A U.S. congressional team has visited Syria seeking to learn the fate of six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon and had contacts with Palestinians and Iranian-backed militants, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources, close to the Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah (Party of God) said the five-man U.S. delegation was headed by Senator Dennis Deconcini, an Arizona Democrat, and Republican Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

Syrian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in Damascus that the U.S. delegation met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during the unpublicised three-day visit. But they declined comment on the reported meetings with fac-

The Lebanese sources did not specify which groups the Americans reportedly met during their low profile trip, which coincided with visits to Damascus by senior Iranians and

their Lebanese allies. Beirut newspapers reported Saturday that the Americans were believed to have met with officials of the Tehran-backed Hizbollah.

A senior Hizbollah delegation led by secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah was in the Syrian capital earlier this week for talks with a high-level Iranian delegation led by Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar The Iranians left Damascus

Thursday after a four-day visit. Hizbollah's spokesman in Beirut, Abu Hawra, denied that any party officials met with the Americans in

Speaking to the Associated Press, he reiterated that Hizbollah refuses to meet any U.S. intermediaries on the missing Israelis.

But he said Hizbollah was ready to discuss the issue with international humanitarian organisations and "friendly forces" meaning Syria, the unrivalled authority in Lebanon, and Iran.

Hizbollah insists that the Israelis must first free thousands of Arabs they hold before it will discuss the fate of the missing Israelis.

The sources said the Americans' meetings were arranged by the Syrians. Earlier this month, Mr.

Assad promised U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he visited Damascus that the Syrians would help determine the fate of the mis-Israelis. Syria played a key role in the

release of Western hostages held by Hizbollah between 1986 and 1991. Mr. Assad's pledge

apparently was part of a deal negotiated by Mr. Christopher for the Syrians to resume stalled peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Assad is scheduled to meet President Bill Clinton in Geneva Jan. 16 and has been meeting with his Iranian and Lebanese allies in recent days in advance of that crucial summit. Iran opposes the peace The sources said the meeting with the unidentified Palestinian groups, who like Hizbollah are opposed to the U.S.sponsored peace process, took place in the presence of Syrian officials at the congressional team's request.

The sources did not say what, if anything, the closed door talks achieved. But if the reports were cor-

rect, they could mark a significant step forward in removing the emotive issue of the missing Israelis from the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. It would also be the first

meeting between the anti-Western Hizbollah and U.S. officials. The U.S. delegation left Damascus Friday and flew to

Israel Radio Saturday quoted Mr. Deconcini and Mr. Specter as saying that Mr. Assad had assured the U.S. delegation full Syrian cooperation in determining the fate of the missing Israelis and was ready to press forward with the

Mr. Assad's pledge itself underlined a new flexibility in Damascus towards the 26month-old peace process after months of stonewalling.

Hizbollah holds two of the

missing Israelis, Yossi Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh. They were captured in a guerrilla ambush in South Lebanon Feb. 17, 1986. Hizbollah has never made

officials say they have evidence that the men are dead. Of the other four, Israel is reasonably sure that air force navigator Ron Arad is still alive. He was captured after his fighter bomber was shot down during a raid on the

any public statement about

their condition. But Israeli

Oct. 16, 1986. The other three remain unaccounted for. Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feloman and Yehuda Katz went missing in a tank battle with the Syrians at Sultan Yacoub in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley June 11, 1982, five days after the Israelis invaded Lebanon.



